

Election Brings Ray of Hope to Battered Algeria

By John F. Burns
New York Times Service

ALGIERS — As a muezzin's afternoon call to prayers rang through the cobbled alleyways of Algiers's Casbah, Mouloud Takdjout settled into a comfortable niche in the old city wall and watched fellow Muslims hurry past.

A cigarette dangling from his mouth, the 50-year-old "wall man," the nickname Algerians give to their millions of unemployed, tapped his foot to the mesmeric beat of a Berber pop song playing on his transistor radio and talked of an Algeria that may at last be emerging from a nightmare.

"Everything has an end, including this, and we are within sight of the finish," he said, referring to the savage war between Algeria's military rulers and Islamic guerrilla groups that has taken at least 80,000

lives since it began in 1992. The strife erupted after the shadowy group of generals who hold real power in this nation of 28 million canceled a second round of elections that were on the verge of securing a parliamentary majority for a militant Islamic party.

The Casbah, a maze of streets in the old Turkish quarter of Algiers, became for most people almost completely off-limits, its traditional vitality dulled by the lurking presence of Islamic guerrillas, who used it as a base to mount bombings, ambushes and assassinations, terrorizing Algiers as their allies outside the capital terrorized much of the rest of the country.

In many cases, the dead were civilian women and children, sometimes babies only a few months old. Often the killers cut victims' throats, burned them alive, gouged out their eyes, or hacked them to pieces.

Few foreigners ventured into the legendary Cas-

bah, even with the posse of armed bodyguards that are every visitor's inseparable shadow.

Rumors of government complicity in the violence abounded, but, despite promises, the generals never allowed international human rights groups to investigate the allegations.

Now, to the surprise of many Algerians, the situation has eased. A presidential election, scheduled for April 15, has come alive, with 11 candidates representing an array of political opinions, and a promise from the army not to rig the ballot, as it has in the past.

The group of generals who control the government, known to French-speaking Algerians as "Le Pouvoir" (The Power), reached a cease-fire pact in autumn 1997 with the Islamic Salvation Army, the

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Inside Today

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Global Upstarts Pressure Bourses To Go Where Old Rules Don't Apply

By Diana B. Henriques
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Threatened by competitors that are grabbing a growing share of their booming business, the major U.S. stock markets are trying to transform themselves by forming alliances with their foes and adopting some of their practices.

If the transformation works as its advocates hope, it could provide investors, big and small, with better service at lower prices. But if it goes awry, it could damage a national treasure: a stock market whose strength and fairness have attracted capital internationally, fostered the growth of new businesses and provided opportunities for millions of investors.

In recent weeks, the New York Stock Exchange, where traders have met on a central trading floor for 207 years, has said it might build or buy its own electronic trading network, where brokers or customers could trade stocks — especially popular ones such as those of Intel Corp. or Microsoft Corp. — that are listed on other exchanges.

The Nasdaq, an electronic marketplace linked by telephones and computer terminals, has acknowledged that it is discussing possible alliances with private trading networks. The largest such network, the Instinet unit of Reuters Group PLC, said it had talked with both Nasdaq and the New York exchange about alternative ways to trade stocks.

Some experts fear that the changes afoot will shatter the existing marketplace into many smaller and more volatile markets, making it harder for investors to be assured of the best price for their trades.

They also worry that as the New York Stock Exchange competes with other trading networks, it will be less insistent on enforcing the tough standards it imposes on companies that want to be listed there. Those standards, such as requiring that a majority of a company's board be independent outsiders, are intended to protect shareholders and are stricter than federal securities laws.

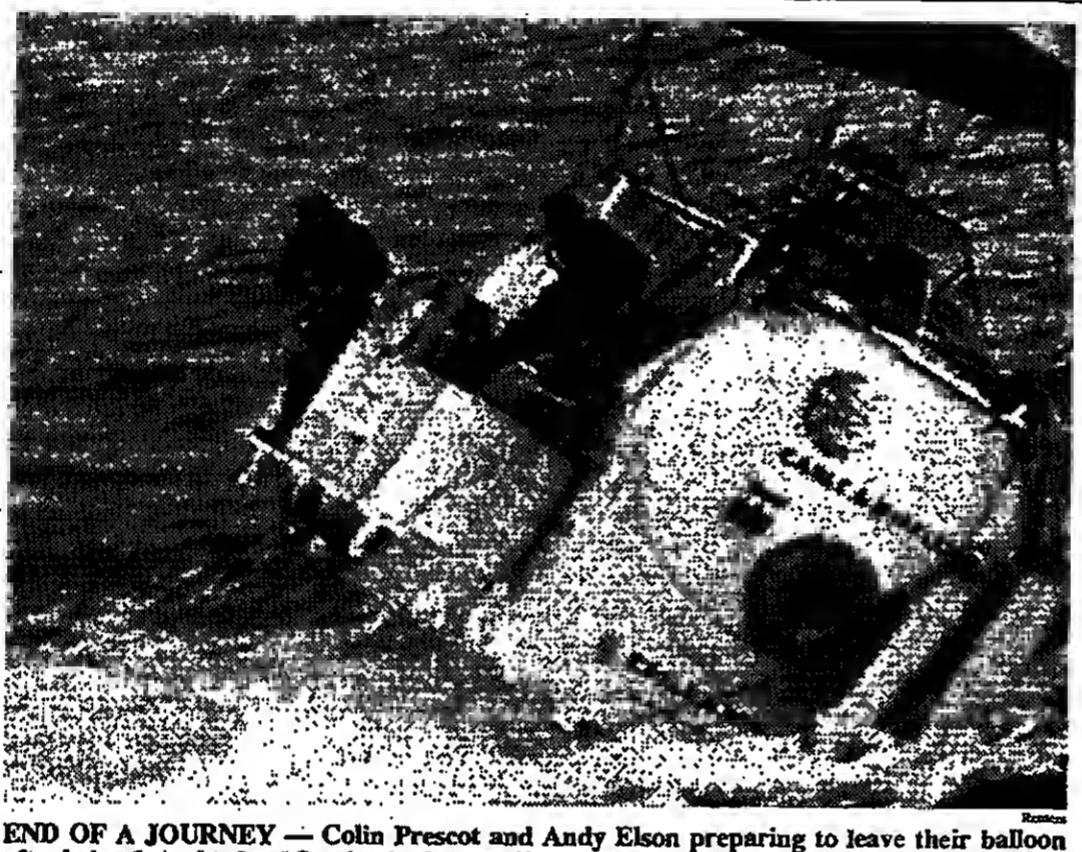
Finally, the changes could put pressure on the U.S. market to allow big investors to operate with greater secrecy, to the disadvantage of small investors.

"Competition is a good thing, but it can have unintended consequences," warned John Coffee, a professor of securities law at Columbia University and a member of advisory committees at both the New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq.

Despite the dangers, market officials and professional traders say that preserving the status quo is no longer an option. As technology improves, investors are demanding faster, cheaper ways to trade securities — and if the United States' existing markets don't respond to those demands, someone else will.

"You can't get in the way of the market," said Frank Zarb, chairman of the National Association of Securities Dealers, which operates both Nasdaq and the American

See MARKETS, Page 17



END OF A JOURNEY — Colin Prescot and Andy Elson preparing to leave their balloon after being forced to land Sunday in the sea off the western coast of Japan due to bad weather. The balloonists, who were attempting to circumnavigate the globe, were not injured. Page 5.

Stanley Kubrick Is Dead at 70

Director Made '2001: A Space Odyssey' and 'Dr. Strangelove'

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Stanley Kubrick, 70, the director of "2001: A Space Odyssey" and "A Clockwork Orange," whose films often puzzled and shocked audiences only to end up as classics, died Sunday at his home in England, his family said.

The police were summoned to Mr. Kubrick's rural home in St. Albans, north of London, on Sunday afternoon, said the authorities in Hertfordshire, where he was certified dead. "There are no suspicious circumstances," the police said.

Mr. Kubrick's films included "Spartacus" in 1960, "Lolita" in 1962, "Dr. Strangelove" in 1964, "2001" in 1968 and "A Clockwork Orange" in 1971.

He also made "Barry Lyndon," released in 1975, "The Shining" in 1978 and "Full Metal Jacket" in 1987.

His latest film, "Eyes Wide Shut," is still slated for

release July 16. Warner Bros. said Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman star in the story of jealousy and obsession, which Mr. Kubrick made in great secrecy.

With Mr. Kubrick's death, the cinema loses its greatest perfectionist, a control freak who demanded the last word on every stage in the process from screenplay, via music, lighting and editing, to the final touches of postproduction.

Mr. Kubrick's love affair with movies began on his 13th birthday, and he pursued it obsessively throughout his life, producing a string of films on themes that expressed the fears and phobias of the times.

Along the way, he drove innumerable collaborators to distraction. The distinguished French filmmaker Bertrand Tavernier resigned as publicist for "A Clockwork Orange" with a cable sent to Mr. Kubrick

See KUBRICK, Page 13

If Pilot Wasn't at Fault, Who Was?

By Steve Vogel
Washington Post Service

CAMP LEJEUNE, North Carolina — A mounting firestorm of anger over the acquittal of Captain Richard Ashby has crystallized around one question: If the Marine Corps pilot who flew his jet very low and cut a cable holding a ski gondola in the Italian Alps is not at fault for the death of 20 people, then who is?

"There has to be somebody who's responsible," said Cindy Renkewitz, a young German woman who lost her father and sister in the accident. "If not him, his superior."

But with the Marine pilot acquitted Thursday, and the case against the navigator, Captain Joseph Schweizer, consequently appearing very weak, it will

be difficult to assign blame to any one person or small group of persons.

Instead, some here suggest that the verdict represents a broad indictment of the Marine Corps for failing to properly equip and train its aviators and then declining to look up the chain of command for a culprit when something went wrong.

"That's the only logical conclusion, that the jurors believe it's the fault of superiors, and that they believe the crew didn't have the right map, equipment and training," said Torrence Armstrong, an attorney representing some of the family members.

The most significant punishment meted out for the deaths thus far has been the removal from command of

See ITALY, Page 6

Fears Grow as Fliers Are Shifted to Less Safe Airlines

By Don Phillips
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Every day, thousands of people board planes holding a ticket imprinted with the name of a familiar U.S. airline, but take off in a jet run by an unfamiliar foreign carrier.

Newstand Prices			
Bahrain	1.000 BD	Malta	
Cyprus	C £ 1.00	Nigeria	£ 2.000 Naira
Denmark	17 DKK	Oman	1.250 OR
Finland	12.000 FM	Qatar	10.000 QR
Gibraltar	£ 0.65	Rep. Ireland	£ 1.10
Great Britain	£ 1.00	Saudi Arabia	10 SR
Egypt	£ 5.50	S. Africa	R 16 incl VAT
Jordan	1.250 JD	U.A.E.	10.000 Dh
Greece	£ 1.00	U.S.	1.200
Yemen	K. Sh. 160	Zimbabwe	Zm \$400
Lebanon	700 Lrs		

As Polls Deflate Gore, Bush Gains Ground

While other Republicans were making pilgrimages to Iowa and New Hampshire to advance their presidential hopes, the world was rushing to George Bush's door in Austin, Texas.

Continental Airlines code-sharing partner, Airclaims Ltd. of London, which tracks airline accidents, lists three China Airlines crashes with 465 deaths in the past decade.

And a 1996 Conde Nast survey listed China Airlines as having an accident rate throughout its existence of 11.43 fatal accidents per 1 million flights, compared with a 0.15 rate for American and a 0.29 rate for Continental.

A person flying from Dallas to Taipei on Monday night, for instance, would leave on American Flight 691 and transfer to San Francisco to American Flight 6123.

At least that is what the ticket would say. But American Flight 6123, which leaves shortly after midnight, is really China Airlines Flight 3.

American Airlines has been quietly working with the Taiwan airline on safety in the past few months, officials said.

With no clear legal precedents es-

See AIRLINES, Page 4

Beijing Hardens On Missile Shield

Foreign Minister Also Disputes U.S. Nuclear Espionage Report

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — China continued its campaign Sunday against proposals in the United States that place parts of Asia, including Taiwan, under an American anti-missile umbrella, warning that such a move would block China's hopes of reuniting peacefully with Taiwan.

Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan also denied a published report in the United States that China had stolen U.S. technology that allowed it to miniaturize its nuclear weapons — a major leap forward in nuclear weapons technology.

"If some people intend to include Taiwan under theater missile defense, that would amount to an encroachment on China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and also be an obstruction to the great cause of peaceful reunification of the motherland," Mr. Tang said.

Mr. Tang's remarks constituted the strongest public reaction to date concerning the consequences of providing Taiwan with anti-missile technology. The remarks are part of a Chinese campaign to put the Clinton administration on notice that it will not tolerate the deployment of an anti-missile system in Asia. On Friday, a senior Chinese official said the provision of anti-missile technology to Taiwan would be the "last straw" in U.S.-China relations.

The campaign comes at a time when no firm decisions have been made in the United States about the anti-missile system, known as Theater Missile Defense, or TMD. China appears to have decided to let its voice be heard on this issue in an attempt to convince the United States that deploying such a system would create more problems than it would solve.

Mr. Tang stressed that China was opposed to providing the anti-missile technology to both Taiwan and Japan, with whom the United States has maintained a close security relationship.

"The development and research of TMD does not go with the trend of the times, nor is it conducive to international disarmament efforts," Mr. Tang said. "It will also exert a negative impact on the global and regional strategic balance and stability into the next century."

Mr. Tang also suggested that the system would conflict with Tokyo's constitutional pledge to maintain only defensive military capabilities.

The recent Chinese barrage of statements against the missile shield indicates that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright failed in her recent trip to Beijing to clear up what her aides said were "misunderstandings" in China about U.S. plans. The statements also underscore a widening gap between Beijing's and Washington's interests in Asia — differences that Clinton administration officials have sought to paper over but that have been emphasized by China.

The clash is a traditional one: between an entrenched power, the United States, and a resurgent one, China. Chinese officials have become increasingly outspoken in recent months about their opposition to U.S. military deployments in Asia and their objection to the alliances maintained by the United States with several Asian nations: Australia, Japan and South Korea.

Mrs. Albright said last week that China should stop worrying about "a decision that has not been made to deploy defensive technologies that do not yet exist" and should do more to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. She was referring to North Korea, which U.S. officials worry is trying to build a nuclear weapon.

Mr. Tang said fears about North Korea were "greatly exaggerated."

Mr. Tang also brushed aside a Pentagon report that said China had bolstered its missile force facing Taiwan. Beijing regards Taiwan as a renegade province and has refused to rule out an invasion if Taiwan declares independence. "Whether we should deploy missiles on our own territory is our own business," he said.

The foreign minister also criticized as "very irresponsible" a report Sunday in The New York Times that China stole U.S. technology to produce small nuclear warheads.

The report said China obtained the technology from the U.S. Energy Department's weapons lab in Los Alamos. Mr. Tang said the report was part of a campaign in the United States to burn U.S.-China relations.

Mr. Tang also appeared unruffled by the prospect that the United States or another Western country would try to pass a resolution condemning China at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva this month.

"If somebody attempts to table an anti-China draft resolution again this year in Geneva, then I think the outcome will not be different than the previous seven times," Mr. Tang said.

Chinese security services have recently begun their toughest crackdown on dissent in years.

AGENDA

Bonn Drops EU Agriculture Proposal

Germany is giving up its insistence on "co-financing" in an overhaul of the EU's agriculture budget, a spokeswoman said Sunday.

In bowing to French opposition to the plan, which would have required individual governments to pick up part of the tab for farm subsidies, the German decision paved the way for progress in talks on reforms of European Union farm policy.

Bonn had viewed the co-financing plan as a key element in securing a

significant reduction in its contribution to the EU budget.

But even a relatively small degree of co-financing would have added billions to public spending in France, the EU's biggest agriculture producer.

The German spokeswoman said the concept of co-financing was "not politically negotiable."

She said that "it was decided with the partners to work on other concepts to limit expenses." Page 6.

NEW RULER —

Sheikh Hamad ibn Issa ibn Suliman, new emir of Bahrain, receiving condolences Sunday in Manama. Sheikh

Hamad succeeds his father, Sheikh Issa ibn Suliman al Khalifa, who had ruled the emirate since 1961.

Sheikh Issa, 65, died from a heart attack Saturday, minutes after a meeting with William Cohen, the U.S. defense secretary. Page 13.

AFP

China Airlines code-sharing partner, Airclaims Ltd. of London, which tracks airline accidents, lists three China Airlines

Brutal Irish 'Peace' / Ruthless Tradition of the North's Militias

Belfast Gangs Are Devouring Their Own

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

BELFAST — In a death and dismemberment to bring together the families of Andrew Peden, a 35-year-old Protestant, and Andrew Kearney, a 33-year-old Catholic, but the awkward union is serving to expose one of Northern Ireland's most persistent and ruthless traditions.

Both men were victims of punishment beatings, in which members of the paramilitary armies that control working-class neighborhoods in this conflicted British province turn their violence not on their declared enemies from the other side of the religious divide but on their own.

Gangs in ski masks haul their victims into darkened alleys and back streets from homes, street corners, pubs and vehicles. They bind them, hang them upside down from railings or pin them to the ground in a crucifixion posture before beating them with hammers, iron bars and baseball bats studded with nails. Then they shoot them in the kneecaps, the thighs or feet.

Mr. Kearney died from the attack on him by a methodical 10-person Irish Republican Army squad that dragged him from the bed where he was playing with his 2-week-old daughter, shot him three times, then locked him in the elevator of his building and ripped out telephone lines so that no rescuers could reach him before he bled to death.

Mr. Peden barely survived shotgun wounds and 10 hours of assault by Ulster Volunteer Force fighters that required months of hospital treatment and a double amputation, leaving him with two stumps on either side of his groin and a palsied and stumped body that needs a daily dosage of 42 pills to keep functioning.

In a grim paradox, punishment beatings increase at times like the present when cease-fires and political negotiations drastically reduce the killing between the two warring religious communities and bring the exhilarating promise of peace. While the peace arrangements move toward a hoped-for conclusion at the end of this month, the rate of punishment beatings, more than one a day during the first two months of 1999, is the highest in 10 years.

"The groups weren't challenged when they had the guns behind them, and this is the way they point out that they still have them," said David Hanna, chief information officer of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. "They've had social control for 30 years now, and they doo'nt want to lose that edge in the new circumstances."

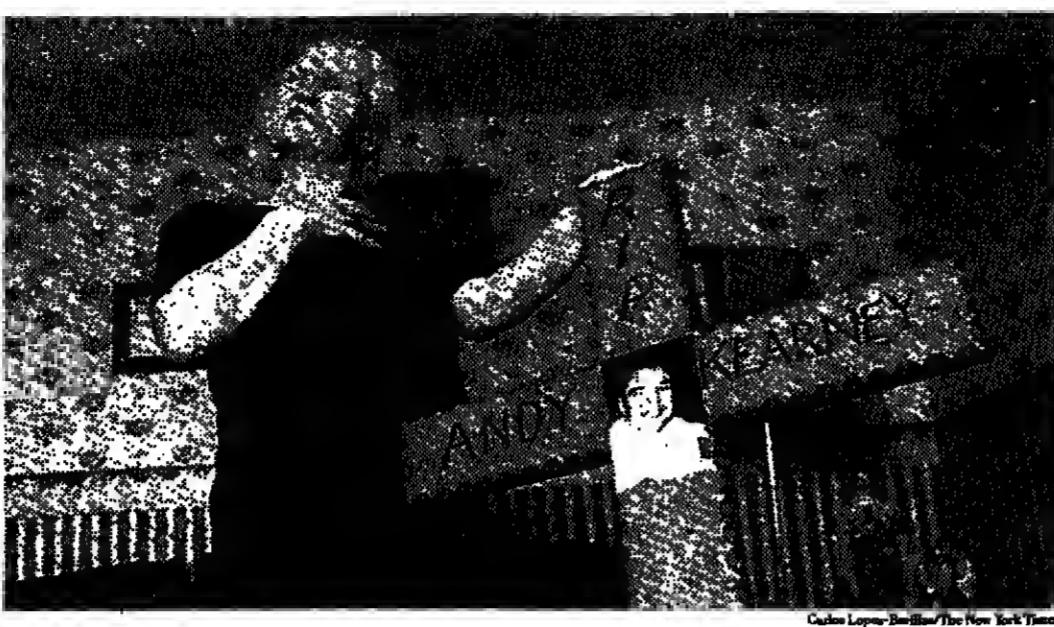
Sam Cushman, director of Families Against Intimidation and Terror, a nonsectarian organization that seeks to give voice to victims of violence, said: "It's all about power and control."

The militias took on their enforcement role, particularly in Catholic neighborhoods, to supplant reviled British security forces and the largely Protestant Royal Ulster Constabulary and to maintain unity and discipline in the separate communities as the sectarian conflict became more intense over the last three decades.

They became such an accepted and feared institution of life that in many cases targeted young men would be delivered to punishment squads by their relatives and then picked up and taken home bloodied and battered afterward. The original aim was to curb drug-dealing, vandalism, car theft and other "anti-social behavior," but now the scores being settled are just as often grudges, disputes over women and disrespect shown a militia leader.

Unlike the sectarian bombings and murders that still occur in Northern Ireland, the savagery is not the work of renegades at odds with their paramilitary groups' cease-fire declarations and endorsement of the peace settlement. It is practiced by men and women who answer to political parties sworn to the nonviolent principles of the accord.

No one questions the fact that parties like Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, or the Progressive Unionists, the political representatives of the Ulster Volunteer Force mi-



Maureen Kearney, above, holding a cross with a photo of her son, Andrew. She was an IRA loyalist until he was brutally killed by members of the predominantly Roman Catholic group last year. Andrew Peden barely survived shotgun wounds and 10 hours of torture by Protestant fighters of the Unionist Volunteer Force that required months of hospitalization and the amputation of his legs.



Andrew Peden, above, lying in a hospital bed after being tortured.

liamers, have control over the vigilante actions and can suspend them when it suits their purposes.

"When you look at the graphs and see a sudden falloff in punishment beatings," Mr. Cushman said, "look at the date and you'll see it's because someone like Clinton was due to come here or there was an election scheduled. They can switch it off."

The gangs operate with impunity because no victims testify and no witnesses come forward for fear of even more vicious retaliation. Mr. Peden and Mr. Kearney would be just two more soon-forgotten grisly statistics here if it were not for the determination of their families to protest.

"These groups say they exist to protect our communities. They call themselves the sons of Ulster," said Mr. Peden, propped between two pillows on his living-room sofa. "You call this protection?" he asked, pointing to his severed limbs. His wife, Linda, has rejected an apology from militia leaders, saying, "What good is that after he has been left with half a body?"

He knows the identities of the men who beat him and sees them moving freely about his two neighborhoods, the all-Protestant Glencain housing project. He wakes up each day to the hated sight of a second story window in a building directly across the street. It is the apartment where he was tortured

for punishment because he came to the rescue of a 17-year-old boy being beaten by an IRA brigade commander in a pub and then challenged the man to a fist fight outside. Mr. Peden became a target because he was mistakenly thought to be an ally of a paramilitary neighbor mixed up in a dispute with a rival militia. He was seized, blindfolded and thrown onto the floor of a waiting car on May 2 as he was preparing to take his wife and three children on a weekend trip. He had no idea of why he was being assaulted, and when he tried to protest his innocence during the beating, he was hit and told to shut up.

Mr. Kearney had received warnings that he was going to "get done," his mother said, and for more than a year he had been assuring her that he was "looking over his shoulder." At the urging of a local priest, he offered to compose a letter of apology and recite it in the pub, but IRA representatives told Mrs. Kearney that it wouldn't satisfy the offended commander's desire for revenge. The masked men came to get him just after midnight the morning of July 19, the date that is now on his tombstone.

Of the IRA, the organization she has been loyal to for her entire life, she says, "They're taking the violence they used to use against the British and the security forces and they're turning it on their own community. They're thugs, scum."

This Week's Holidays

Banking and government offices may be closed or services curtailed in the following countries and their dependencies this week because of national and religious holidays:

MONDAY: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

TUESDAY: Burma.

THURSDAY: Lithuania.

FRIDAY: Liberia, Mauritius, Zambia.

Sources: Bloomberg, Reuters.

Anywhere in the World, Tourists Take a Chance

By Donald G. McNeil Jr.
New York Times Service

JOHANNESBURG — Eight tourists, including an American couple, were slashed to death last week deep in the Ugandan jungle, apparently by Hutu militiamen targeting Britons and Americans. The tourists had been there in the hope of trekking up a slope full of biting insects and stinging nettles to spend a brief hour in the company of mountain gorillas.

The U.S. State Department and the British Foreign Office had issued warnings about fighting in western and northern Uganda, but the park they were visiting, the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, was considered safe.

Should the tourists have been warned of a political threat? Or were theyreckless even to go at all, given the natural risks involved?

Now, let's put aside Uganda, put aside all of Africa, the continent comprising 15 of the 28 countries on the State Department's "Travel Warning" list.

The problem is that crime is spotty, so it wouldn't be useful or fair to stigmatize an entire country over its crime rate. For example, crime has closed all the luxury hotels in downtown Johannesburg, but tourists happily stay in newer hotels in safer northern Johannesburg and then return to the airport for flights to crime-free game parks and beaches.

American tourism, of course, is not immune to the crime problem. In 1993, after nine foreign tourists were killed in south Florida, Germany put Florida on its "don't go" list. Yet no one can credibly argue that all of America is unsafe.

Ms. Cockwell, of the British tour outfit, said that in an effort to get more timely safety updates, representatives of the British travel industry recently met with officials from the Foreign Office. Not surprisingly, that meeting was prompted by old news: the killing of three British tourists kidnapped by Yemeni tribesmen, and a government warning to Britons to shun Chile because of resentment over Britain's detention of General Augusto Pinochet, the former Chilean dictator.

The industry wanted better international coordination, and it wanted site-specific warnings: Tour promoters thought remote parks in Chile were safe for British tourists even if the capital, Santiago, was dicey.

Ultimately, better weather reports might have saved more lives than deep political intelligence. Alternatively, look at Egypt. The risks there are no secret. Muslim fundamentalists trying to choke off the government's tourism revenue killed dozens of tourists between 1992 and mid-1997. But after a government crackdown, Egypt was considered a fairly safe destination on Nov. 16, 1997; it was on nobody's "don't go" list. The next day, 58 tourists were cut down at the Temple of Luxor, and tourism dropped 80 percent.

The point: Predicting danger for tourists is difficult; tour operators and foreign service officials say, and political danger may be the hardest to predict of all.

Who could have known that Islamic fundamentalists would set off a bomb last year in Kenya? Or, in a country like South Africa with a minuscule Muslim population, that a few anti-American Muslim fanatics would blow up a Planet Hollywood restaurant, killing not a single American (clearly, Americans were the desired target) but instead a South African banker, while maiming a British family? "No one could have foreseen this," Sue Cockwell, a spokeswoman for Acacia Expeditions in London, said of the attack last week in Uganda, which killed four of her tour group's clients. "The Foreign Office didn't, and our local contacts had no sense of danger."

It could be argued that someone could have sensed the dangers.

Not too long ago, Hutu militias attacked a Ugandan village and killed nearly everyone in it. Gorillas trekking in Rwanda and the former Zaire died out because of guerrilla warfare. Moreover, diplomats and journalists working in east Africa were aware that some Hutu militants resent Americans and Britons.

But unlike the Egyptian fundamentalists, the Hutu militias had never announced any hostile intent toward tourists. On Wednesday a British newspaper reported the Ugandan government had received a threat in writing. Uganda denies it. "There was no warning," said Arthur Kafeero, a press officer at the Ugandan Embassy in London. "If there had been, preventive action would have been taken."

The state-owned Sunday Vision reported that the Ugandan government has suspended treks to the habitat of the rare gorillas, Agence France-Presse reported from Kampala on Sunday. The month-long suspension covers visits to both the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, where the tourists were killed, and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, which is further south.

Keeping travelers apprised of dangers is very much on the minds of Western governments. Most of the 28 countries on the State Department's "don't go" list, however, are fairly obvious threats. They are either at war, or have public, government-endorsed bouts of anti-American feeling. Among the former are Bosnia, Angola, Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo.

Though Miss Deneuve's loss for her role in "Place Vendome" was a surprise, there was no surprise in the winner for best foreign film: Robert Benigni's "Life Is Beautiful," which has swept film festivals worldwide and has been nominated for a slew of American Oscars.

The best actor award went to Jacques Vilmer for the comedy "Le Diner de Cons," and best supporting actor went to Daniel Prevost for the same film. The movie also won the award for best screenplay.

Best director went to Patrice Chéreau for "Cézanne qui m'aime prendra le train" (Those Who Love Me Will Take the Train). That film also took the best supporting actress award for Dominique Blanc.

France Bestows Its Film Awards

The Associated Press

PARIS — France has honored its best in cinema at the annual César awards, giving the top prize to "La Vie Réelle des Anges" (The Dream Life of Angels), a first-time directorial effort by Erick Zonca, and crowning the film's two much-praised actresses with yet another laurel.

The film made a splash last year at the Cannes film festival, where its stars, Elodie Bouchez and Natacha Régnier, shared the best actress prize.

On Saturday, Miss Bouchez beat out the heavily favored Catherine Deneuve for best actress, while Miss Régnier won an award for most promising young actress.

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WEATHER

Forecast for Tuesday through Thursday, as provided by AccuWeather.



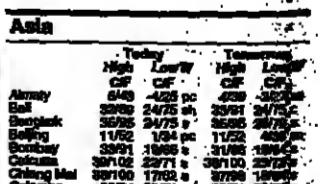
Rain and mountain snow in the Alps and the Pyrenees, then dry and warm in the British Isles and Scandinavia.

Cloudy and dry in the Valley to the mid-Atlantic Coast.

Cloudy and dry in the northwest Russia and Scandinavia. Some sun and some sunshine Thursday.

A band of soaking rain will move from Italy into southeastern Europe.

Cloudy and dry in Hong Kong with some sun.



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THE AMERICAS

Gore's Polls: No. 2 Job Is No Help

By Richard L. Berke
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — Vice President Al Gore has only one declared rival for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2000. His party is delighted in its newfound popularity after impeachment, while President Bill Clinton is basking in impressive job approval ratings.

Why then is Mr. Gore, who has never provoked as much hostility from his foes as Mr. Clinton and who is widely regarded as the most involved vice president in modern times, performing so feebly in the polls?

With only a few exceptions, survey after survey shows that in a head-to-head matchup, Mr. Gore has less support than two Republicans who are planning to run, Governor George Bush of Texas and Elizabeth Dole.

In a Time/CNN poll released Friday, Mr. Bush leads Mr. Gore among adults nationwide by 52 percent to 41 percent. The survey also found that 60 percent thought Mr. Bush was strong and decisive, while only 39 percent said that of Mr. Gore.

Another poll, by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, found that President Clinton, who has never provoked as much hostility from his foes as Mr. Clinton and who is widely regarded as the most involved vice president in modern times, performing so feebly in the polls?

ton's popularity did not fully transfer. Among voters who approve of the job the president is doing, just 32 percent said there was a good chance they would vote for Mr. Gore.

There is no way to describe those numbers as positive for Mr. Gore. Even so, he might take solace in that his potential support may not be as fragile as the numbers suggest. For one thing, no matter how active he has been, Mr. Gore is still the vice president, and it has always been difficult for anyone in a president's shadow to develop a distinct persona before people begin to focus on the presidential competition.

Mr. Gore's advisers repeatedly invoke Vice President George Bush, who at this point in the 1988 campaign lagged far behind two Democrats, Gary Hart and Michael Dukakis, only to rise from behind to win the White House. A Gallup Poll conducted in January 1987 found that Mr. Bush was trailing Mr. Hart by 38 percent to 51 percent.

Turning to the current situation, Mark Penn, who conducts polls for Mr. Gore, as well as for Mr. Clinton, said: "He's not really seen right now as a presidential candidate but as a vice president. Historically, vice presidents start out in horse races somewhat lower. Bush was signifi-

cantly behind Hart and Dukakis."

William McIntriff, a Republican pollster, concedes that he made the identical argument on behalf of Mr. Bush in 1987. "If I were a Gore loyalist," Mr. McIntriff said, "I could substitute all of my quotes — scratch Bush and put in Gore — because some of it is endemic to being the vice president. People have no real sense of who he is."

Still, Mr. McIntriff was taken aback by the figures. "It's really stunning how bad off he is," he said. "Anybody who's been a well-known Republican is clocking the guy. My uncharitable view is that Gore is a stiff and that in comparison to Clinton he has nowhere near the skills." Mr. McIntriff's candidate this time around, Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, still registers far behind Mr. Gore.

The outpouring for Mr. Bush and Mrs. Dole may be misleading because of their peculiar circumstances. They have very high name recognition. But people may have extraordinarily idealized notions of their views because no one really knows how Mr. Bush or Mrs. Dole stand on most national or international issues. Mr. Penn calls it "a glow factor that's untested."

Mr. Gore, who was in San Francisco this week on his 53d trip to



Mr. Gore talking to students at Helen Keller School in New York.

California as vice president, dismissed the polls as "unreliable."

An analysis this week by the Pew Research Center asserts that Vice President Bush's weaknesses in

1987 "may have reflected mixed views of the administration," while Mr. Gore's "position in the polls today may have more to do with his own image problems."

POLITICAL NOTES

Tripp Blasts Lewinsky's Story

WASHINGTON — Monica Lewinsky's story of her relationship with President Bill Clinton was "fiction, fable, fantasy, farce and fairy tale," Linda Tripp, the woman who befriended and betrayed the ex-White House intern, said on Sunday.

In her first interview since Ms. Lewinsky's televised appearances and book release last week, the Pentagon public affairs specialist also attacked Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Mrs. Clinton "was complicit in the time that I was there in virtually every scandal," Mrs. Tripp said on the ABC program "This Week," adding that if the first lady ran for the U.S. Senate in New York "many things would be a problem once they surfaced."

Mrs. Tripp set off the scandal when she secretly taped Ms. Lewinsky's conversations about her affair with the president and turned the tapes over to the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr.

After working in the White House for the Bush and Clinton administrations, Mrs. Tripp was transferred to the Pentagon in 1994. She met Ms. Lewinsky when the intern was also transferred there.

Ms. Lewinsky has been scathing in her criticism of Mrs. Tripp, saying she felt her former confidant betrayed her.

On Sunday, Andrew Morton, author of Ms. Lewinsky's version of events, "Monica's Story," said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that the former intern viewed Mrs. Tripp as "the devil incarnate."

(Reuters)

Connie Mack to Leave Senate

WASHINGTON — Senator Connie Mack of Florida, the third-ranking member of the chamber's Republican leadership, will announce this week he is not seeking a third term next year, according to people close to him.

Mr. Mack, 58, had collected nearly \$3 million for a re-election campaign, but stirred speculation that he might retire when he told reporters last month he had not made up his mind about running again.

Other Republicans, including Governor Jeb Bush of Florida, have strongly urged Mr. Mack to run again.

But Mr. Mack, who is an advocate of term limits, was said by friends to be eager to pursue life outside the Senate.

Word of Mr. Mack's plans spread when he started informing friends, family members and Senate colleagues of his decision. He plans a public announcement Saturday in Fort Myers, Florida, aides said.

(WP)

Away From Politics

• The number of Americans killed in fires is dropping dramatically, thanks to such safety improvements as smoke detectors, sprinklers and child-proof lighters. In 1997, fire deaths totaled 4,050, down from 6,215 in 1988, says the National Fire Protection Association. (WP)

• Florida's largest electric utility has been ordered to pay \$37.3 million to the family of a 12-year-old girl who was killed in a traffic accident two years ago. Jill Goldberg died in 1997 when her mother's car was hit at an intersection in Miami where a traffic light hung dark. Workers for Florida Power & Light Co. had shut off power to repair a downed line and had not noticed they also had cut power to the traffic signal. (AP)

Welcome to the Biggest Little Presidential Campaign in Texas

By Dan Balz
Washington Post Service

AUSTIN, Texas — David Miner, a Republican state representative from North Carolina, arrived here last week carrying what has become the most coveted political invitation in the country: lunch at the governor's mansion with Governor George Bush of Texas.

"I believe it was beef," a stony-eyed Mr. Miner said later of the meal, "but I was so excited by seeing the kind of candidate that we haven't had in a long time, I didn't pay much attention to what I was eating."

State Representative Chuck Larson of Iowa had coffee with Mr. Bush on Feb. 8. Politicians from Iowa, whose precinct caucuses kick off the presidential nominating process, normally wait for candidates to come to them. But Mr. Larson was one of a dozen Iowa legislators who chartered two planes that day to fly to Austin, and he did not leave disappointed.

"We have had an opportunity to meet Steve Forbes and Dan Quayle and the others, and they're all very sharp and competent and capable," Mr. Larson said of other candidates. "But after meeting George Bush, you

know that if he runs, he will be the next president of the United States."

The Texas capital is in the grip of a phenomenon that may be unique in the annals of presidential campaign start-ups. As a slew of other Republican candidates make pilgrimages to Iowa and New Hampshire and struggle for money, media attention and political support, the world is rushing to George Bush's door.

Almost every day now, the heavy metal gate on the back side of the governor's mansion here slides open around noon and a group of prospective recruits for Mr. Bush's presidential campaign enters for an audience with the governor.

The supply appears endless: politicians hoping to find a winner, curious business executives, eager fund-raisers, operatives looking for a piece of the action and a procession of policy experts who represent many of the best and brightest in the Republican Party. Demand is so heavy that Mr. Bush's staff is booking visits for April.

Bush allies say the visits reflect a genuine grass-roots movement by Republicans desperate to recapture the White House in 2000. Cynics say it is a carefully calculated effort by

Mr. Bush's team to create an aura of inevitability around the campaign of someone who has served just four years and seven weeks in elective office and is untested in national politics.

Whichever the case, Mr. Bush was to begin his presidential campaign here Sunday afternoon by unveiling an exploratory committee stocked with names in the Republican establishment as well as members of the governor's generation, and blessed with the kind of institutional support that is extraordinary for a first-time candidate. The undertaking was bound to be burdened by what Mr. Bush's press secretary, Karen Hughes, calls "stratospherically high expectations" that can only mean trouble in the months ahead.

"They're engaged in the easy part of being a front-runner, which is rolling out the people," said Mike Murphy, a Republican media consultant not aligned with any campaign. "The most difficult thing is making sure you spell the names right of everyone endorsing you." Mr. Bush's advisers claim they are keeping their feet on the ground, although some people here have begun to doubt that, sensing that some of those around the governor have been caught up in the hype

of the rush to clamber aboard the campaign. "It is one of the best noncampaigns going," said one Bush ally who has been a frequent visitor to the governor's mansion.

"The fact that the noncampaign has been so successful makes it frightening to start the real campaign." Perhaps, but the Bush campaign would not trade places with any of the governor's rivals for the Republican nomination.

Mr. Bush decided months ago he would not travel to places like Iowa and New Hampshire while the Texas Legislature was in session this spring, a questionable strategy given the organizational demands in those states. But the Bush campaign has been taking shape here day by day, and whatever qualms Mr. Bush has had about putting his family through a grueling presidential campaign appear to have been resolved.

Despite Mr. Bush's vow to concentrate on his state legislative agenda, his presidential campaign is absorbing large portions of many days as he bones up on domestic and international issues. Mr. Bush has taken part in half a dozen policy briefings in recent weeks, four-hour sessions that have covered health policy, the underclass, Social Security, Medicare and defense policy.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Clinton Aides Admit Serious Security Lapses on Espionage by Chinese

By David E. Sanger
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Two of President Bill Clinton's top advisers have said that an investigation into China's acquisition of U.S. nuclear weapons technology showed enormous lapses in security at the Energy Department's laboratories in the 1980s, and they acknowledged that they moved too slowly to solve the problems during Mr. Clinton's first term.

The comments, in response to an article in The New York Times on Saturday detailing federal investigation into how China was able to copy the most advanced miniature nuclear warhead, known as the W-88, came Saturday from the president's national security adviser, Samuel Berger, and Energy Secretary Bill Richardson.

"The information that we were

provided in 1997 made clear that there was a serious security problem at the national labs dating back to the mid-1980s, which we were going to deal with in a systematic and comprehensive way," Mr. Berger said.

The authority to tighten security and begin a major counterintelligence push at the laboratories arose from a directive signed by Mr. Clinton in February 1998, after a nine-month investigation into security lapses at Los Alamos National Laboratory and other laboratories.

But Mr. Richardson said "the major reforms were instituted in October 1998, a month after I came in" as energy secretary, succeeding Federico Pena.

In other words, the tightening happened nine months after Mr. Clinton's order was signed, and 18 months after the details of the security breach were first relayed to the White House.

The administration's critics say the delays indicated that the White House was playing down the severity of the reports to avoid derailing the effort to put relations with China on a better footing.

Mr. Berger and other officials deny that.

At the same time, senior administration officials say Mr. Richardson, who previously served as chief delegate to the United Nations, was not briefed on the investigation until a month after joining the Energy Department. Even then, it came from an Energy Department official, Noura Trulock, who first raised questions about the Los Alamos case, rather than from the National Security Council or the FBI.

Asked to explain the delays, senior administration officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that despite

Mr. Clinton's directive in early 1998, the Energy Department moved extremely slowly.

Mr. Pena announced his decision to leave the department in the spring of 1998, and major decisions were held in abeyance. "Things were kind of hanging out there" until Mr. Richardson's arrival, one official said.

The main suspect in the warhead case was identified only as a Chinese-American computer scientist at the Los Alamos laboratory in New Mexico. But it was not the first time the administration was made aware of security breaches there.

In December 1997, Peter Lee, a physicist, admitted in a plea bargain agreement that in 1985 he gave China classified information involving the use of lasers to simulate nuclear detonations.

Former officials of the Bush and Reagan administrations say that, in ret-

pect, the government was remarkably lax about lab security in the 1980s, even during the Reagan-era arms buildup.

"It is quite clear now that things were far too casual," said James Lilley, U.S. ambassador to China from 1989 to 1991 and after that a senior Defense Department official. Mr. Lilley, also a former CIA operative in China, said: "This has been going on for a long, long time. We had Ministry of State Security defectors and other Chinese who became agents, and they made it clear that this was a top priority of their industrial and intelligence apparatus."

While Mr. Lilley blamed the two Republican administrations he served in, he added that the Clinton administration was "caught in bureaucratic struggles between the Energy Department and the FBI and the Chinese saw that we were still sitting ducks" in the early to mid-1990s. But Mr. Lilley said Washington should not disrupt its dealings with Beijing because of the spying.

"You've got to get some maturity into the relationship with China," he said, arguing that the United States could deepen its economic engagement "while still restricting high technology exports and breaking up their espionage rings."

The view in Congress may be different. The steady drip of disclosures about Beijing's efforts to obtain U.S. technology may lead Congress to demand efforts for China to join the World Trade Organization — an objective of the Chinese for many years.

■ Senator Urges More Vigilance

The Senate Intelligence Committee chairman, Richard Shelby, criticized the Clinton administration Sunday for moving too slowly to tighten security after a major leak of nuclear secrets to China was discovered in 1997, Reuters reported from Washington.

"We've been pushing, we've been prodding the administration to do more, to tighten up security," the Alabama Republican said on the NBC News program "Meet the Press."

"I think they're beginning to, but it's been a long time," Mr. Shelby said. "They waited a long time. They could have done more. They could have done more immediately. It will damage, if it hasn't already damaged our national security in a big, big way."

Mr. Shelby said Congress would hold hearings as soon as possible to look into the leak of secrets to China in the mid-1980s and the administration's subsequent investigation.

"The attitude of lax security is going to do more damage to our national security than what we've seen in these newspaper articles," Mr. Shelby said.

BRIEFLY

North Koreans Vote In Local Elections

SEOUL — North Korea held its first local elections in five years Sunday in a move that experts said was expected to strengthen the power of its leader, Kim Jong Il.

Voters are electing about 20,000 deputies to serve four years on provincial, city and county councils, according to South Korean analysts.

The elections, the first since December 1993, proceeded smoothly "with all the voters turning out with high revolutionary enthusiasm," the North's Korean Central News Agency quoted election officials as saying. (AP)

Opposition Activist Freed in Singapore

SINGAPORE — The opposition politician Chee Soon Juan was freed Sunday after serving 12 days in prison over a public speech he made without a permit.

Mr. Chee made the speech Jan. 5 in Singapore's central business district, where he stood and read parts of the state's constitution. He was jailed after refusing to pay a \$1,470 fine.

Wong Tong Hoy, assistant secretary-general of Mr. Chee's Singapore Democratic Party, was also released. He was jailed for helping Mr. Chee make the speech by adjusting his microphone. (AP)

Dalai Lama Called Anti-China Plotter

BEIJING — Marking the March 10, 1959, anniversary of a failed uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet, China's state-run media accused the Dalai Lama on Sunday of fomenting unrest and plotting with anti-China forces in the world.

The Xinhua press agency described the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader as the "major source of social disturbances in Tibet."

The Dalai Lama, who was the Nobel Peace laureate in 1989, fled Tibet during the 1959 uprising but has remained the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists both in exile and in his homeland. (AP)

Sri Lankan Troops Seize Rebel Area

COLOMBO — Sri Lankan troops pursuing a new offensive in the north have captured a large amount of territory formerly held by Tamil Tiger rebels, the Defense Ministry said Sunday.

The ministry said in a statement that about 535 square kilometers (205 square miles) were captured in the operation, which was begun Thursday. It added that the forces were consolidating their hold in the area.

The statement did not mention casualties, and there was no comment from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. (Reuters)

For the Record

India and Pakistan have agreed to release a total of 61 nonpolitical prisoners in the next three weeks, 18 Indian nationals who are currently jailed in Pakistan and 43 Pakistanis held in India, in an attempt to improve relations. (AP)

Cambodian Troops Arrest Last Khmer Rouge Chief



Ta Mok, the arrested Khmer Rouge leader, faces trial in his homeland.

By Chris Seeger
Washington Post Service

PHNOM PENH — The Cambodian military has arrested the last fugitive leader of the Khmer Rouge and pledged to bring him to trial before a national genocide tribunal.

The capture of Ta Mok on Saturday marked the first time a senior Khmer Rouge leader had been arrested for his role in the group's four-year period in power in the late 1970s, when more than 1 million Cambodians were killed or died from starvation, torture or neglect.

A recent United Nations report called for an international tribunal to try Khmer Rouge leaders, but government officials seem intent on a single, locally conducted trial just for Mr. Ta Mok.

On Yinteing, an adviser to Prime Minister Hun Sen, said he did not think an international tribunal would be necessary after a local trial for Mr. Ta Mok.

All other remaining Khmer Rouge leaders have received amnesty under government peace deals.

Mr. On Yinteing said: "We will use Cambodian law and a Cambodian tribunal. That should be enough."

Mr. Ta Mok, a one-legged military chieftain known as "the Butcher," is considered one of the Khmer Rouge's most violent and hard-line members.

Unlike many of the group's leaders, who are considered architects of the Communist killing machine, Mr. Ta Mok is said to have been directly involved in violent internal purges and other massacres.

He has been the de facto leader of the Khmer Rouge rebels since a shake-up in 1997 that placed Pol Pot, the founder and longtime leader of the group, under house arrest by the Khmer Rouge until he died last year.

Diplomats and government officials said Mr. Ta Mok had been surrounded by government troops near the Thai border and captured along with a small number of troops and family members.

■ Government Pledges a Trial

Khieu Kanharith, a government spokesman, said Mr. Ta Mok would face trial in Cambodia, casting doubt on the government's willingness to see senior Khmer Rouge officials tried in an international court, The Associated Press reported.

Mr. Khieu Kanharith said: "He was arrested under the law outlawing the Khmer Rouge. But please wait for the prosecutor's investigation. The charges could include everything."

UN legal experts have recommended the creation of an international tribunal to try senior Khmer Rouge leaders.

The threats to retaliate come mainly from Harkat Ansar, which has been designated a terrorist organization by the United States.

The group is suspected of having had a role in the 1995 kidnapping and likely killing of four Western tourists, including



FLIGHT FOR PEACE — Thousands of Filipinos releasing doves Sunday at a peace rally in Manila. The crowd urged Communist rebels to release captive military officers and called for a negotiated peace.

3 Militant Groups Threaten Americans

Pakistan-Based Extremists Tied to bin Laden Issue Death Warnings

By Kamran Khan
and Kenneth J. Cooper
Washington Post Service

KARACHI, Pakistan — Three Muslim militant groups based in Pakistan, angry about the killing of some of their comrades last August in the Aug. 7 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

At a news conference in Islamabad following the Aug. 20 U.S. assault on camps near Khost and Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan, Harkat leaders vowed that the harm done to its members would not go unanswered.

The veterans of the Khost bombing form the nucleus of Osama bin Laden loyalists, whose sole mission in life is to settle the score with the United States," said a senior Harkat member, who requested anonymity.

"For each of us killed or wounded in the cowardly U.S. attack, at least 100 Americans will be killed," the Harkat member said. "I may not be alive, but you will remember my words."

Other Harkat sources predicted that the organization would exact "bloody retaliation" for the Clinton administration's attempt to strike at Mr. bin Laden for the embassy bombings.

The militant group has maintained close ties to Mr. bin Laden since it was formed in the 1980s to join Islamic guerrillas in their successful decade-long fight to oust the Soviet Army from Afghanistan.

Since that war ended in 1989, Harkat has sent a large number of Muslim militants from Pakistan across an unrecognized border dividing the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir to fight security forces in Indian-controlled areas.

Harkat and other militant Pakistani groups were using Mr. bin Laden's camps to provide military training to their members, according to U.S. Indian and other intelligence agencies.

Lee James Irwin, spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, indicated Friday that officials there had received no written threats against Americans from Harkat or any other Pakistani group.

It was clear early in the morning" said Budhan Singh Kaitwar, a witness who was not hurt, "but later there was a thick wave of fog."

Sheila Dixit, chief minister of the state of New Delhi, said 18 people on board the plane and three civilians on the ground were confirmed dead.

The plane was flying in from Gwadar in central India when it went down about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from the airport, the Press Trust reported.

21 Die as India Air Force Plane Crashes Near New Delhi Airport

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — An Indian Air Force transport plane crashed amid a cluster of trees near the airport here Sunday, exploding in a ball of fire and killing 21 people, officials said.

The air force launched an inquiry into the accident Sunday and civil and military officials were unwilling to make immediate comment on the likely cause.

James Rubin, a U.S. State Department spokesman, said: "We are encouraged that we now have the opportunity to bring one of the most notorious war criminals in the recent past to justice, and we will now be focusing our efforts on working with the Cambodian government to that end."

The United States, the staunchest supporter of an international tribunal, has welcomed the arrest of Mr. Ta Mok and promised to assist Cambodia in bringing the Khmer Rouge chief to justice.

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The plane was flying in from Gwadar in central India when it went down about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from the airport, the Press Trust reported.

It was the second air accident in three days in India. On Friday, an Air France cargo plane crash-landed in the

southern city of Madras. The plane was burned to a skeleton, but only one member of the five-person crew was injured.

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100,000 Muslims Protest in Jakarta

Reuters

JAKARTA — More than 100,000 Muslims marched through the streets of the Indonesian capital Sunday to protest the military's failure to quell Christian-Muslim bloodshed that has killed more than 200 people.

Forming a column 2 kilometers long, they chanted as they walked 20 kilometers to the historic Al Azhar mosque in southern Jakarta. They dispersed peacefully after the march.

The rally was the largest in a series of Muslim protests over fighting on the eastern island of Ambon, about 2,300 kilometers east of Jakarta. More than 200 people have been killed in Ambon and nearby islands in two months.

Earlier Sunday, Indonesia's military sent a special team of senior officers to the battered island to help restore peace.

Continued from Page 1

Establishing liability in a code-sharing crash, many airline executives maintain that the rush to book up with carriers that have statistically poorer safety records has left U.S. carriers open to lawsuits for crashes overseas.

Others say airlines face a moral dilemma as well.

"I believe airlines enter into alliances because it's to their advantage economically," said Kenneth Mead, Transportation Department inspector-general, who has begun a formal investigation of the safety implications of these marketing partnerships. "That's a legitimate objective. There's a corresponding obligation along with it — a safety obligation."

The Defense Department has also told airlines that any carrier that wants a piece of the government's \$1.2 billion yearly travel bill must assure officials that their foreign partners have safety standards that are "substantially equivalent" to those of the U.S. carrier.

Under code-sharing, one airline buys a block of tickets on another airline's

flight and lists the flight in reservation systems under its name, or "code."

The processes will read as if the passengers are flying on a U.S. carrier, even though they actually transfer to a plane flown by another airline.

Passengers are supposed to be notified, but many pay little attention until they show up at the gate and find themselves boarding a plane of a different color.

Code-sharing is attractive for airlines because it increases feeder traffic on domestic routes and makes an airline's international reach seem much greater.

U.S. government employees and military personnel are particularly affected because they usually travel under contracts that require use of specific airline routes. These contracts favor U.S. airlines under "Fly America" rules.

But code-shares qualify as "Fly America" flights even if the trip is on a foreign airline that is totally outside the jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration or the safety audit requirements written into Defense Department contracts

EUROPE

At the Reichstag, History and Its Horrors Are Laid Bare

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

BERLIN — E. Kenedy, an American soldier, was here May 13, 1945.

So, too, a couple of days later, was one Lucia Petrova of the Red Army. Both wrote their names on the walls of the Reichstag just after its capture at the end of World War II, and today their jubilant graffiti are visible once again.

History — a staggering concentration of it — has been laid bare in the Reichstag before it becomes the seat of the German Parliament again next month, 65 years after a fire there summed up Hitler's view of parliamentary democracy.

So bare lies the past, in fact, that even the vulgar anti-German insults of victorious Soviet soldiers, scrawled across the interior of the building in 1945, have been exposed by removing fake plasterboard walls put up to cover them in the 1960s.

"Our approach was radical, based in the view that the history of the building should not be sanitized," said Sir Norman Foster, the British architect who has rebuilt the Reichstag. "And the fact that Germany accepted this approach shows to me what an extraordinarily open and progressive society it has become."

Certainly, there is something "open," if not plain masochistic, about Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's going past Russian obscenities to

reach his blue-doored parliamentary office. Mr. Schroeder's father died in 1944 on his way back from the Russian front.

The new glass dome on the building also speaks of postwar Germany's overriding preoccupation with transparency. It is an architectural coup that has become the symbol of the new Berlin skyline and is as bold as I.M. Pei's glass pyramid at the Louvre in Paris.

But openness is by no means the whole story. The return to the Reichstag, symbol of German democracy but also of disaster, has provided the occasion for a national debate of quintessentially German tortuousness.

Perhaps that was inevitable, for when Sir Norman hands over a symbolic Reichstag key to Wolfgang Thierse, the parliamentary speaker, on April 19, the gesture will at once open the new Parliament and usher in the new "Berlin Reichstag," rising where the ruins of Nazi Germany lay 54 years ago.

"I don't believe the nonsense about some evil spirit lurking there," said Michael Cullen, a Berlin-based historian. "Hitler only set foot in the place three times. But this is a new beginning for Germany, one decided without a plebiscite, so the tension between past and future is under-

Behind the debate lies an evident concern that bringing Parliament back to the massive gray stone edifice erected under Bismarck in 1894 may tempt the various ghosts — of imperialism, of fascism, of communism and of plain old tragedy — that have inhabited or surrounded the Reichstag in the last century.

The tension has taken several forms.

First, there was the problem of the eagle, symbol of Germany. A bird, in most places, is a bird. But not in Germany, where Hitler often spoke, as at Nuremberg in 1934, in front of towering, sharp-clawed eagles.

Should the eagle remain the pudgy thing, known affectionately as "the fat hen," that has long adorned the glass Bundestag building in Bonn, or should the eagle recover a touch of Prussian virility for the return to the Reichstag in Berlin?

After studying more than 235 eagles that have appeared in Prussian and German history, Sir Norman came up with a creature that was "leaner and keener." The bird, he said, had "a twinkle in its eye and was more dynamic, a touch playful, not in repose but in flight."

But after exhaustive debate, his proposal was rejected last year by the 35-member committee overseeing the reconstruction. The heirs to Lud-

wig Gies, the artist who designed the Bonn eagle, had objected.

So now a 8-by-6 meter (26-by-21-foot) eagle that is 60 percent bigger than the Bonn bird but of the same form, hangs in the 669-member chamber of the Reichstag. With public galleries protruding above marble seats seemingly lifted from the nearest office equipment store, the ducal Rhine-lake eagle adds to a feeling of informal intimacy, the very opposite of Prussian militarism.

After the bird brooch came the Reich rumpus. "Reich" means empire. But there is no more German empire. So should the Reichstag change its name to Bundestag, as Mr. Thierse often spoke, or should it become the Plenarbereich (Plenary Area), as several other members of Parliament have argued? Or perhaps the Reichstaggebäude (Reichstag building)?

Referring to the Finance Ministry's imminent move from Bonn to a Berlin building that was once the Nazi-era Air Ministry, Werner Schmitz of the Green Party said: "Of course the Reichstag's name should be changed. Who would call the new Finance Ministry the Reichluftfahrtministerium?"

Who indeed? But "Reichstag" appears likely to stick, as it has through an extraordinary history. This has included being a center of war propaganda during World War I, the Parliament of the Weimar Republic and the site of a Nazi exhibition in 1938 on "The Eternal Jew."

Moscow Is Evacuating Last Aides in Chechnya

MOSCOW — Russia was evacuating its last official representatives from the breakaway region of Chechnya on Sunday after the kidnapping of a high-ranking Russian officer, an Interior Ministry spokesman said.

He said staff members representing the Russian president and government were scheduled to leave at midday as a precaution, after the Interior Ministry's representative in Chechnya, General Major Gennadi Shpigin, was grabbed on Friday.

Chechnya has been plagued by lawlessness since its separatist leadership sealed a peace accord with Moscow more than two years ago, under which Russia pulled its troops out of the region.

Moscow says Chechnya remains part of Russia but the southern region has achieved de facto independence. (Reuters)

Pope Beatifies 10 More For Possible Sainthood

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II, already credited for more than half of the beatifications performed in the last 400 years, added 10 more people Sunday to the church's list of potential saints.

Of the 1,611 faithful beatified since 1605, when the Vatican codified the church's last formal step before sainthood, 219 of them have been accorded the honor by this Pope, whose papacy began in 1978. John Paul has also named 276 saints.

Of the 10 names added to the church's roll-call of the blessed, 8 of them were men who died for their faith during the Spanish Civil War.

Beatification, though, is not a guarantee of sainthood. While one miracle is required to be beatified, a second one is needed for a person to be named a saint. (AP)

Local Austrian Voting May Favor a Rightist

VIENNA — Austrians began voting Sunday in three provincial elections that could rock the unstable grand coalition in Vienna and provoke an early general election.

A total of 1.23 million people, or more than a fifth of the voting population, are eligible to vote for the regional parliaments of Salzburg, Tyrol and Carinthia.

With the conservative People's Party, led by Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schüssel, expected to remain in power in Tyrol and Salzburg, the focus is clearly on Carinthia.

Polls suggest the far-right Freedom Party of populist Joerg Haider will emerge as the strongest force there. (Reuters)

German Greens in Crisis

Following String of Failures in Government, Fischer Calls for Party Reforms at Congress

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ERFURT, Germany — Germany's Greens, facing a crisis over their performance in government, were locked in a power struggle Sunday at a congress that had been aimed at rallying the demobilized ecologists.

Speculation grew that Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer would try to take control of the party, which has seen its main policy commitments diluted or delayed by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats.

The struggle stoked a debate over how the Greens could update their traditional concerns of pacifism, ecology and civil rights.

Young Germans are turning away from the party's graying anti-establishment ideals, which do not quite address their top concerns, while loyal founding members question whether compromising on party goals, such as phasing out nuclear energy, are a price worth paying for influential government posts.

At a weekend convention that ended Sunday, Green leaders warned their party that it faced a slow death unless it renewed its image and ideas.

"We have become boring in our visions; and we have great difficulties making practical politics," said Mr. Fischer, the chief strategist behind the Greens' rise to power.

Founded in 1980 by anti-nuclear activists, environmentalists and feminists, the Greens struggled over the weekend with how to revamp their party without becoming too much like the others.

"Our success depends on our being able to stand up for our goals, even if we do make compromises," said Kerstin Mueller, the leading Greens lawmaker.

Taking issue with suggestions that German voters no longer cared about Green issues, Mr. Fischer said the problem lay more with the party's arcane internal structures, which he said were weakening the ecologists in policy battles with Mr. Schroeder.

"We have to combine our visions with what it is actually possible to achieve," he told 700 delegates at the congress in the eastern city of Erfurt. "We have to learn how to govern and how to go out and campaign."

The Greens have never had one



Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer talking Sunday with a Greens party spokeswoman, Antje Radtke, center, and Gunda Roestel, a party co-leader, during the second day of the movement's congress in Erfurt.

overall leadership function. Party officials are chosen according to quotas for men and women, East and West Germans, moderates and radicals.

Mr. Fischer rejected as nonsense a magazine report that he and other

leading moderates would mount a bid to take full control of the party and he sought to reassure left-wingers that he was not against the party's gender quota.

But leading radicals were not con-

vinced. "This makes me absolutely mad," Kerstin Mueller, parliamentary whip, said Saturday to long applause. "We all know that when the Greens talk of structure reform, it's all about a battle for power." (Reuters, AP)

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INTERNATIONAL

With Eye on Post-Saddam Iraq, U.S. Pursues Policy of Bombs and Subversion

By Steven Lee Myers
and Tim Weiner
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — This week, an American diplomat named Frank Ricciardone will take on a new job. His mission is as simple as it is difficult: to unite the fractured Iraqi opposition, nudge Saddam Hussein and build a democratic nation from the ruins.

The Clinton administration has been pursuing the same goal on three tracks: bombing Iraq in a slow-motion war, succoring the opposition with words and ideas, plotting to subvert the soldiers and spies that support the Iraqi leader.

Toward that end, the United States has been striking Iraq from the air for 10 weeks now, and last week American planes loosed the biggest barrage of bombs since 1991.

The jets have struck at least 104 targets, 4 more than they hit during the major American and British barrage over four days last year, damaging or destroying surface-to-air missile sites, anti-aircraft artillery, radar towers and communications centers. In a report to Congress on

Wednesday, President Bill Clinton said Iraq's air defenses had been "degraded substantially."

"What we are working to do is to help create the political and military conditions that will permit a successful change of the regime," said Walter Slocombe, undersecretary of defense.

But Pentagon officials are among the first to acknowledge that bombs alone cannot topple Mr. Saddam.

The American military commander in the Gulf region has said repeatedly that the task of creating a legitimate alternative to Mr. Saddam appears impossible for now, given the disunity of the opposition.

For now, the hope for a coup rests on the impact of the tons of bombs falling on Iraqi military sites. But allies of the United States in the region, especially Saudi Arabia and Turkey, are increasingly impatient with the American program of bombs and bombard.

There has been no clear evidence so far that the bombings have eroded Mr. Saddam's power structure, best envisioned as a pyramid of perhaps 100 trusted men, sitting atop half a million soldiers, spies and political operatives.

Despite this, Mr. Ricciardone, named to the newly created position of policy coordinator, has said he envisions a sudden demise for the regime in Iraq, a country he knows.

In the mid-1980s, he helped try to normalize relations between the United States and Iraq. He was second-in-command of the shuttered American Embassy after the 1991 Gulf war, working out of Amman, Jordan, and London.

He is one among many in the administration who sees political thunderclouds gathering over Mr. Saddam, though no one will predict when a storm might occur.

"Most likely, there will be a military coup," he said last week in an interview with a newspaper in Ankara. "It will be very sudden and without warning."

The president's national security adviser, Samuel Berger, said that Mr. Saddam's repeated efforts to shoot down American or British jets over Iraq showed his weakness, not his strength.

"His ineffectiveness in stopping us has undercut him to some degree," Mr. Berger said in an interview. The challenges are meant to demonstrate his power, he added. "Instead he looks

ineffective."

A senior administration official said that Mr. Saddam is "nervous and off-balance." Another official, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity, said: "We think we see Mr. Saddam failing. We are working toward a slow whittling-down of his power, his authority and his nerves. There are reports of military guys perhaps not following orders."

The Clinton administration has not spent a penny of a \$97 million fund created by Congress to finance Iraqi opposition, an indication of its thinking about the likelihood of success.

There is understandably some revulsion in the Arab world about a superpower plotting insurrections in the region. Few in the administration have any idea who or what could succeed Mr. Saddam, except perhaps chaos.

In part because of these sensitivities, the administration has tried to draw as little attention as possible to the air strikes. On Feb. 26, in a major foreign policy speech nearly 7,000 words long, Mr. Clinton devoted one sentence to Iraq and said nothing about the bombing.

The Pentagon, too, is giving out less and less

information about the bombing, withholding the familiar grainy videos of attacks and declining to discuss the damage in detail.

The Pentagon says it is trying to balance risks against rewards.

The delicacy of that balance was clear last week when American jets attacked two radio towers that the Pentagon said relayed messages to Iraqi air defenses but that also, it turned out, controlled the flow of oil through Iraq's pipeline to Turkey.

On Friday, Defense Secretary William Cohen indicated publicly that the strikes on the towers were a mistake. By disrupting the UN program that allows Iraq to sell oil for food and medicine, the United States had handed Iraq a public relations victory, officials said, creating sympathy for ordinary Iraqis.

"It's really one of those traps Saddam's trying to draw us into," an official said.

The biggest trap would be losing an American pilot. The Pentagon has increased the helicopter-borne emergency rescue teams in the region, standing by to dart into Iraq should a plane go down.

BRIEFLY

U.S. to Sell Missiles To Saudi Arabia

RIYADH — William Cohen, the U.S. defense secretary, told Saudi Arabia on Sunday that Washington would sell the kingdom advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles to improve Saudi security in the Gulf.

Mr. Cohen agreed at a meeting with Prince Sultan ibn Abdulaziz, the Saudi defense minister, to increase joint army training exercises in the kingdom and to study jointly the threat from some chemical and biological weapons, a senior U.S. official said.

Israel already has such missiles and Washington has approved their sale to the United Arab Emirates. Bahrain will also get them, Mr. Cohen said. (Reuters)

Haitians Drown After Boats Capsize

MIAMI — Two boats carrying as many as 43 Haitians in an apparent bid to smuggle them into the United States sank off the South Florida coast, and rescuers found only three survivors.

The three men rescued Saturday in the choppy Atlantic waters off West Palm Beach told U.S. Border Patrol officers that one boat — carrying 18 Haitians — broke down and that the other boat — carrying 18 to 25 more people — approached it to help. Both boats then went under, the survivors said.

"Forty are presumed dead or drowned," said Art Bullock, a Border Patrol officer in West Palm Beach.

The Coast Guard called off its search for survivors early Sunday. (AP)



Swedish soldiers in the Bosnia peace force monitoring traffic and looking for arms Sunday in the city of Tuzla.

Rebels Blamed for 3 Americans' Deaths

By Douglas Farah
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Marxist guerrillas murdered three kidnapped American humanitarian workers in Colombia on orders from a senior rebel commander, according to Colombian and U.S. officials.

Officials in both countries said the accusation was based not only on witness accounts at the time the three were seized Feb. 25 in Arauca Province near the Venezuelan border but also on electronic intercepts of rebel conversations, including a recording of the order to execute them.

The bodies of Ingrid Washinawatok, Terence Freitas and Lahe'e Gay were found Thursday night on the Venezuelan side of the Arauca River, which separates Venezuela and Colombia.

All were shot with 9mm weapons. The two women were shot four times each, in the face and chest, and Mr. Freitas was shot six times, Colombian police said. The three, who had been working with the indigenous U'wa people, had been blindfolded and their hands had been tied behind their backs.

Officials blamed the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, the largest guerrilla organization in

Colombia, for the murders. The group often kidnaps foreigners to raise funds but seldom executes its captives.

The insurgents customarily deny actions they are not responsible for. They have not yet commented on the murders.

Late last year the rebels, who have been battling the government for 34 years, held their first talks with U.S. officials as part of an effort to repair their international image.

The group's reputation has been hurt by the fact that it receives millions of dollars a year for protecting cocaine and heroin traffickers who operate in different parts of the country.

The December talks with U.S. officials were aimed at trying to persuade the United States that the group could be trusted as it began peace negotiations with the government. Now, those hopes seem shattered and the peace process, already bogged down, appears close to unraveling.

On Friday night, a U.S. State Department spokesman, Lee McCleary, condemned the guerrillas for the murders, which he called a barbaric terrorist act.

State Department officials had come under congressional fire for holding the talks because the guerrilla organization has been formally designated a terrorist

organization by the U.S. government.

Colombian officials also condemned the guerrillas and said the peace process, the centerpiece of President Andres Pastrana's seven-month-old government, was close to being canceled. One official called the murders "not only brutal, but really, really dumb."

U.S. and Colombian officials said that speculation about who was responsible for the murders initially centered on rightist paramilitary groups, who more routinely kill hostages, or drug traffickers who operate in the area.

But Colombian intelligence officials, in telephone interviews, said the police had intercepted two cellular phone conversations between the guerrillas of the organization's 45th Front — which was holding the three — and German Briceno, the front commander and brother of Jorge Briceno, the guerrillas' leading military strategist.

The 45th Front has been identified as one of the groups most closely tied to drug trafficking.

In one conversation, the sources said, Mr. Briceno was surprised to learn that two women were being held. He said he had thought they were all men. After asking their ages, Mr. Briceno ordered his troops to "take them over to the other side of the river and burn them," a common phrase for killing.

UN's Nobel Money To Fund Memorial

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Almost 11 years after winning the Nobel Peace Prize for its peace-keeping efforts in trouble spots around the world, the United Nations has decided to spend the money on a monument commemorating all peacekeepers who lose their lives in duty.

The UN invited Sweden and Norway to help select a design and tentatively plans to erect the memorial on the esplanade outside the visitors' entrance to its New York headquarters, said an assistant secretary-general, Alvaro de Soto. (NYT)

Germany Drops Farm Budget Demand

Agence France-Presse

BONN — Germany is giving up its insistence on "co-financing" in an overhaul of the European Union's agricultural budget, a government spokesman said Sunday.

In bowing to French opposition to the plan, which would have required individual governments to pick up part of the tab for farm subsidies, the German decision paved the way for progress in talks on reforms of the Union's Common Agricultural Policy.

Christina Reinhardt, the spokeswoman, said that the concept of co-financing "was not politically negotiable" and that instead, "it was decided with our partners to work on other concepts to limit expenses."

Bonn and Paris have been at loggerheads over the agriculture reforms

and, in turn, a broader reform package, Agenda 2000, designed to prepare the EU for expansion into Eastern Europe.

Germany had for weeks infuriated its closest ally by refusing to drop proposals under which part of the Common Agricultural Policy budget would be paid from national rather than European coffers. Bonn had viewed the co-financing plan as a key element in securing a significant reduction in its 11 billion euro (\$12 billion) net contribution to the EU budget.

But even a relatively small degree of co-financing would have added billions to public spending in France, the EU's biggest agriculture producer.

Miss Reinhardt denied media reports that there were splits within the German government on the Agenda 2000 negotiating strategy, and in particular on

reform of EU agricultural policy.

"This was not the case," she said.

On Thursday, Agriculture Minister Karl-Heinz Funke told his French counterpart, Jean Glavany, that the issue of co-financing was no longer an option, and Bodo Hombach, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's chief of staff, said the same day that Germany had "little chance of imposing co-financing."

But on Friday, Miss Reinhardt said national co-financing was still on the agenda. The media and diplomatic circles in Bonn jumped on the apparent discrepancy.

Germany, which holds the rotating presidency of the Union, wants to resolve the agriculture-reform dispute so as to reach an overall agreement on Agenda 2000 in time for an EU summit meeting in Berlin on March 24-25.

Law Is Voided On Rape Suits

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A federal law that gave victims of rape and domestic violence the right to sue their attackers for violating their civil rights is unconstitutional, a U.S. appeals court in Richmond, Virginia, has ruled.

The court's 7-to-4 decision invalidates a key section of the Violence Against Women Act, a broad-based congressional response to domestic violence that also includes financing funding for battered women's programs and interstate enforcement of protective orders.

The ruling means that in states under the court's jurisdiction — Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia and the Carolinas — victims of rape and domestic violence will only be allowed to sue under state tort laws. The court found that the Constitution does not give Congress the power to legislate in this area because the problem is not related to interstate commerce.

Legal analysts said the case was likely to reach the U.S. Supreme Court, where it could become a vehicle for further limiting Congress's ability to pass legislation in areas where states also have authority.

Women's groups criticized the decision Friday by the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of Christy Brzonkala, a former Virginia Tech student who filed a federal lawsuit against two football players who she said had raped her.

The court proceedings here and an earlier investigation into the accident revealed a host of such failures, both by the Marine Corps and by other branches of the armed services.

ITALY: If Pilot Wasn't at Fault, Who Was?

Continued from Page 1

the crew's squadron commander, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Muenge. One other officer received a letter of reprimand, effectively ending his career.

Captain Ashby still faces a court-martial for obstruction of justice, a charge that stems from the removal of a videotape, which could be valuable evidence, from the plane after landing.

An exhausted Captain Ashby was circumspect in his criticism of the Marine Corps during an interview. "I'll always say that I love the Marine Corps for what it is, and what it stands for," he said.

But the captain admitted to feeling like a scapegoat, and he and his attorneys said problems in preparations for the flight — including a flawed map and incorrect information about altitude and speed restrictions — sent his EA-6B Prowler flying up the valley, in Captain Ashby's words, at the "wrong place and the wrong time."

One simple step that could have prevented the accident, he added, would have been "making sure everybody knows the rules for flying in a foreign country."

Members of Captain Ashby's Prowler squadron, although they had been in Italy for nearly six months at the time of the February 1998 accident, said they were unaware of Italian regulations that prohibited jets from flying below 2,000 feet in the region, an altitude that would have kept Captain Ashby's jet far above the ski-lift cable, which was hit at a height of about 360 feet (about 110 meters).

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The court proceedings here and an earlier investigation into the accident revealed a host of such failures, both by the Marine Corps and by other branches of the armed services.

Other problems included the widely publicized failure to include the cableway on the map provided to the crew, poor communication between the U.S. Air Force and the Marine Corps, including a failure to relay critical information that could have prevented the accident and flawed safety equipment aboard the aircraft.

The disaster demonstrated that, despite the Pentagon's emphasis in recent years on improving joint operations between military services, serious problems still exist.

"This is a classic example," said Captain Ashby's attorney, Frank Spinner, a former air force officer. "The services have different mind-sets and different operating procedures."

Ironically, faulty communication between the army and the air force also played a key role in the accidental shooting down in 1994 of two U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopters by air force F-15s over northern Iraq.

Among the problems that emerged from the gondola investigation and subsequent trial:

• The Marine Corps squadron was largely unaware of low-level speed restrictions, even though the air force gave the information to the squadron.

• The radar altimeter on the Prowler involved in the accident often failed. Records show that in five months before the accident, the radar altimeter, which warns if the jet flies too low, had been checked for malfunctions 12 times.

• The training given Captain Ashby and other Marine aviators was not good enough for flying low-level routes in mountainous regions, according to testimony.

Despite outrage in Italy and elsewhere in the world, the acquittal was popular among Marines at this base.

Clinton Visit Offers Hope for Central America

By Mireya Navarro
New York Times Service

SAN SALVADOR — When President Bill Clinton visits Central America this week, he will see a region ravaged by one tragedy after another over the past few decades and, more often than not, forgotten in its intervals of renewal.

The president is to open a four-day visit to El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala on Monday, the day after Salvadorans vote on a new president and further cement a remarkable democratic transformation after 12 years of civil war that left more than 70,000 people dead.

Anne Patterson, the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, said: "It's almost a miracle what's happened here."

But after the clamor of the 1980

Travel
QUARTERLY

A Buddhist monk looking out of a temple in Luang Prabang. Monks collect alms in the street every day at dawn.

Ancient City, New Vistas

Former Capital of Laos Begins to Draw Tourists

By Thomas Crampton

LUANG PRABANG, Laos — Nestled among hazy hills at a slow bend in the Mekong River, the former royal capital of Laos, Luang Prabang, has long been a remote preserve of old Indochina.

Potholes and highway bandits discouraged road travel to the city, while access by air required a stopover in the Lao capital, Vientiane, not to mention the lengthy and expensive visa procedures just to get into the country.

In the last year, however, this riverside city of royal palaces, golden temples and colonial-era buildings that somehow managed to survive the ravages of war and communism has been firmly placed on the tourist map, while nonetheless retaining the charm and relaxing demeanor that makes it one of the most rewarding cultural destinations in Southeast Asia.

Lao Aviation has begun in the last several months to fly direct from northern Thailand twice a week, the airport offers \$30 visas on arrival and the city's infrastructure for visitors has been geared up for a two-year tourism promotional effort. In the last few months, tour boats have even begun plying the Mekong River from Thailand, an ideal way to enter Laos and approach the city.

As a result, the city's colonial-style luxury hotels were booked solid through the cool season, (December to February) and the number of budget guest houses has tripled to about 30 in the last year. Sidewalk tables at the French restaurants are packed, and vibrant Laoian textiles are sold from the once-empty shops that line the main street.

Declared a World Heritage site by the United Nations in

1995, just as the country's isolationist Communist government started to crack open the door to tourists and market economics, Luang Prabang presented conservationists with an almost unique opportunity to rescue an Asian city built of wood from the tidal wave of poured concrete that has enveloped much of the region's architecture.

A brisk walk up the steep hill to the central temple, Wat Phou, reveals the city's palm-fringed vista of more than a thousand low wooden buildings concentrated on a 250-meter wide peninsula that runs for less than a kilometer.

The best way to visit the city is to start near the tip of the peninsula at the magnificent gold-encrusted Xieng Tong temple and meander on foot or rented bicycle through the city's many narrow streets.

BRUSHING aside banana leaves and peering over fences made of woven bamboo reveals houses and a lifestyle that seem little touched by the late 20th century. This apparently unchanged way of life is great an appeal as the city's architecture.

Virtually every temple seems to have sheds for lengthy ceremonial teak racing boats and storerooms filled with masks and other elaborately decorated items used to celebrate festivals.

But even outside of the major annual festivals, it is easy to partake in the rituals of Luang Prabang. Each day at dawn, to the sound of the city's many roosters, thousands of barefoot Buddhist monks can be seen shuffling silently through the streets collecting alms.

Circulating in single file, broken into groups of about 20,

See LAOS, Page 9

INSIDE

The Savvy Traveler gives tips on saving up to 80 percent on full-fare air tickets. Page 8.
The Healthy Traveler looks at why air passengers find cabin air so stuffy. Page 8.



Cycling networks that span continents are being set up for cyclotourists. Page 10.

Are Airline Alliances Passenger-Unfriendly?

By Roger Collis

IMAGINE arriving at the airport to find that instead of the familiar airline check-in desks, there is just one long row of desks displaying the logo Star Alliance. At other airports, you might have a choice of Oneworld or Atlantic Excellence. But this is Hamburg, a Star Alliance hub.

Your ticket reads: Hamburg-Copenhagen-New York-Toronto-Frankfurt-Hamburg. You have no idea on which airline you will be flying in these sectors — perhaps Lufthansa, SAS, United, or Air Canada. You can expect the same standards of service and comfort, similar seating, food and in-flight entertainment. You will earn

double miles because the entire journey is with Star Alliance partners, and diamond membership of the Star Alliance frequent-flier program will give you the run of VIP lounges along the way. But don't expect any price breaks because there is no competition on the route you are traveling.

This scenario may be only slightly futuristic as airlines carve up the skies into four major alliances, accounting for more than 60 percent of world airline traffic: Star Alliance; Oneworld; Atlantic Excellence; and KLM-Northwest-Continental Airlines.

Some insiders predict that, in 5 to 10 years time, we may end up with half a dozen global airlines, formed from current alliances, in addition, there may be around 400 satellite or regional carriers, along with independent niche

players offering competition on certain regional and international routes.

The rationale for the new global airline networks is to prevent airlines losing passengers — and profit — as people change carriers to reach their final destination.

Global airline cooperation typically involves "code-sharing," a system whereby airlines agree to use the same "designator code," or flight number, for a flight or series of connecting flights in order to attract more business by extending their networks through partner carriers.

Airlines sometimes sell blocks of seats under their own code in another airline's cabin. Such is the case with Continental Airlines which sells its own tickets on Virgin Atlantic flights from Heathrow to Miami, and with Sabena which sells seats

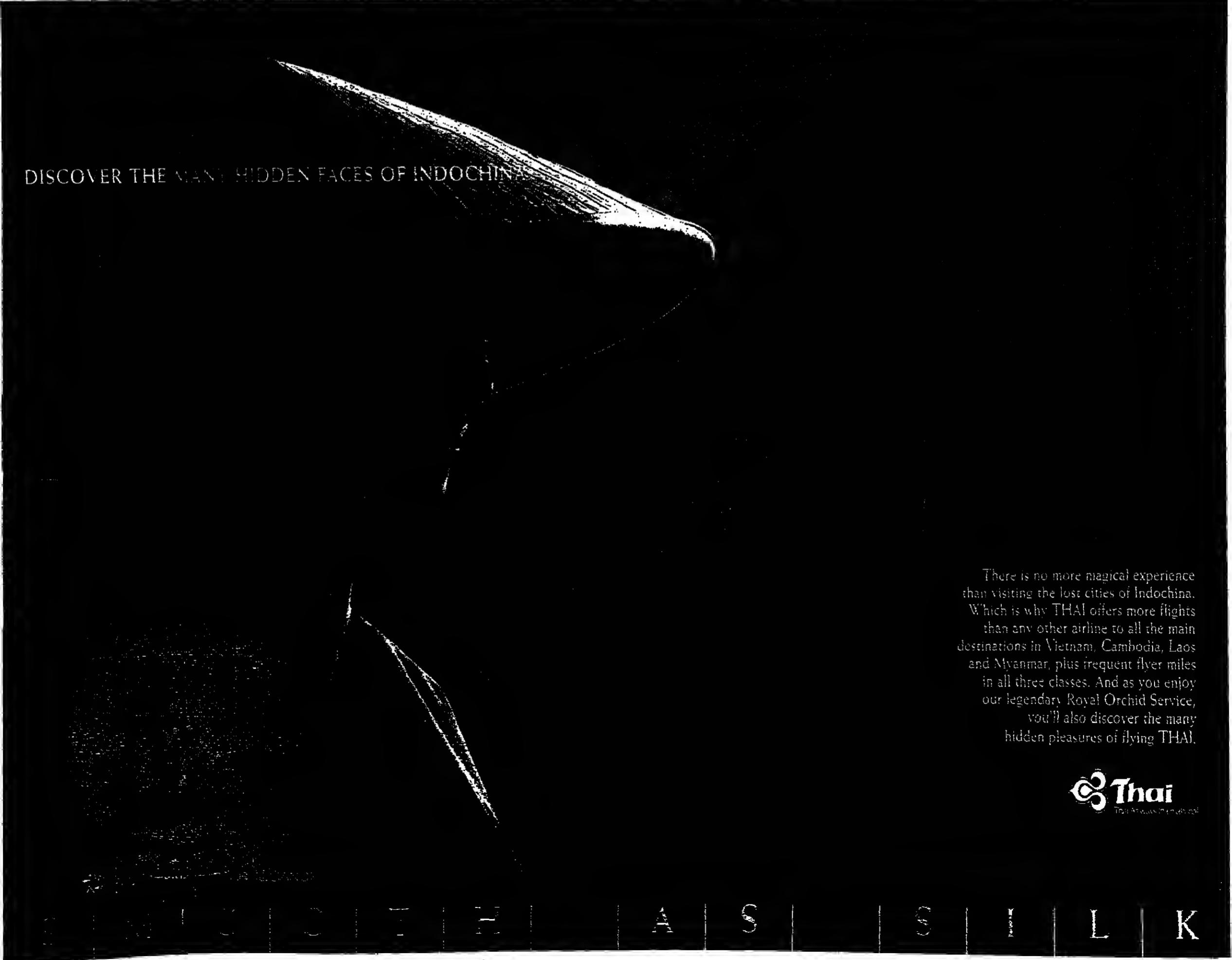
on Virgin Express flights between Brussels and Heathrow. You never know whether the airline you booked on is the one you will actually fly.

The Star Alliance is the most formally structured global network, with a management board, integrated check-ins and sales forces, coordinated scheduling and frequent-flier programs. It consists of Air Canada, Lufthansa, SAS, Thai Airlines, United Airlines, Varig, Air New Zealand and Ansett. All Nippon Airlines is due to join in October. It claims to serve about 800 destinations around the world.

Oneworld is a looser alliance that was formed in February. It is led by American Airlines and British Airways along with Canadian Airlines.

See ALLIANCES, Page 8

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trib Travel

Potpourri Of Charm And Rich Heritage



Mothers meeting near the central market in Luang Prabang.



Workers pushing a cement mixer past one of the city's traditional wooden houses.

Paul Lekane
The sun setting
on the Mekong
River; tour
boats now
come from
Thailand
to enter Laos
and cruise up
to Luang
Prabang.



Ancient City and New Vistas

Continued from Page 7

the saffron-clad monks receive donations of steaming sticky rice and sweet cakes wrapped in banana leaves from residents who kneel on mats outside their homes. They are joined by the occasional tourist.

But the harried traveler who tries to see and do all of Luang Prabang will miss out on the city's calm silence, smell of grass and human pace of life.

"I have been here for four days and have not yet even managed to send a single postcard," said one tourist, while relaxing at a sidewalk café along the main street.

WITH financial support and encouragement from the country's former colonial ruler, France, the Laothian government has mapped, photographed, classified and enacted strict regulations to protect the thousand or so wooden buildings in the central part of the city.

Funds from France to preserve the city multiplied this year to several million dollars from a few hundred thousand, and Boutros Boutros Ghali, the former United Nations secretary-general who now heads the French cultural promotion organization Franco-phonie, has said he will help lead appeals to find further international support for the conservation project.

Already every alteration or new construction must be built in harmony with the city's traditional style architecture, emphasizing such local characteristics as the sweeping Laotian tiled roofs and wooden walls.

Enthusiastic support of the project by the governor and the Laothian central government, a one-party regime accused by Amnesty International of detaining political prisoners, has occasionally brought what some residents

consider heavy-handed enforcement of these cultural regulations. Authorities very strongly encourage all Laothian women in Luang Prabang to wear traditional woven skirts and Laotian men to keep their hair short.

In an act called excessive by conservationists, the governor ordered the demolition of dozens of wooden restaurants traditionally built on the sand banks of the Mekong during the dry season.

"There is a certain irony that the same Lao government responsible for the last king's death in a cave 20 years ago is now enthusiastically promoting tourism to Luang Prabang," said one foreign tour operator. "The king was a quasi-religious figure so it is equivalent to killing the Pope and then promoting tours of the Vatican City."

The 600-year-old ruling dynasty of Laos ended when the Communists came to power in 1975. King Savang Vatthana was forced to abdicate and was banished from Luang Prabang's royal palace. The deposed monarch briefly moved to a nearby house along the Mekong before being taken to a cave in the country's northeast, a trip from which he never returned.

The preservation of Luang Prabang does, however, receive a great deal of popular support among residents, many of whom point to Thailand, their nearby cultural cousin, as the destructive development model they wish to avoid.

"My neighbors are not all happy that we must stay in old-style houses where termites eat the wood," said Mauvavanh Thounmabou, a schoolteacher who supports the city's conservation efforts. "But there are many people like me who want to restore our houses as soon as money becomes available."

THOMAS CRAMPTON is a correspondent for the International Herald Tribune in Bangkok.



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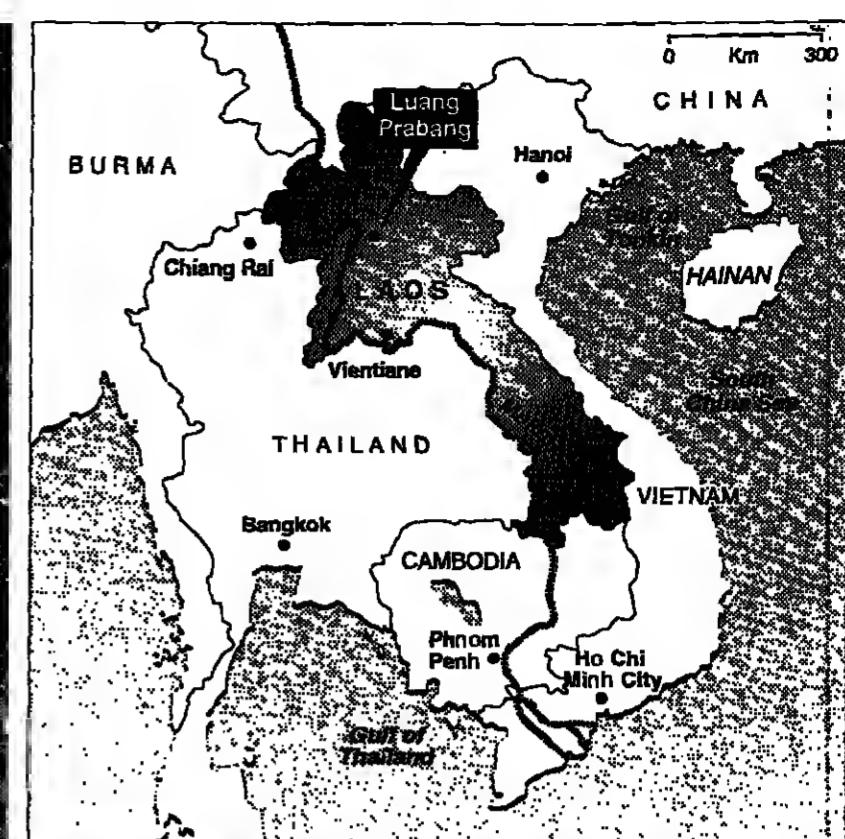
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When to go:

Luang Prabang is best visited at the height of the dry season or during one of the country's traditional holidays, such as the September boat races or the Lao New Year in mid-April. The month of March should be avoided since slash-and-burn agriculture in the area brings down a heavy pall of smoke on the city.

Getting there:

The journey to Luang Prabang requires transport that may make some travelers think twice before booking a holiday. Lao Aviation operates an aging fleet of Chinese propeller aircraft considered too dangerous for travel by staff at the United Nations and many embassies. The Lao capital, Vientiane, can also be reached on Thai Airways International's daily flights from Bangkok or by land from Thailand. Getting to Luang Prabang by car, however, requires driving on a road once known for occasional robberies.

Perhaps the ideal way to arrive in Luang Prabang is to fly to Chiang Rai, northern Thailand, and ride a boat for two days downstream on the Mekong River.

Where to stay:

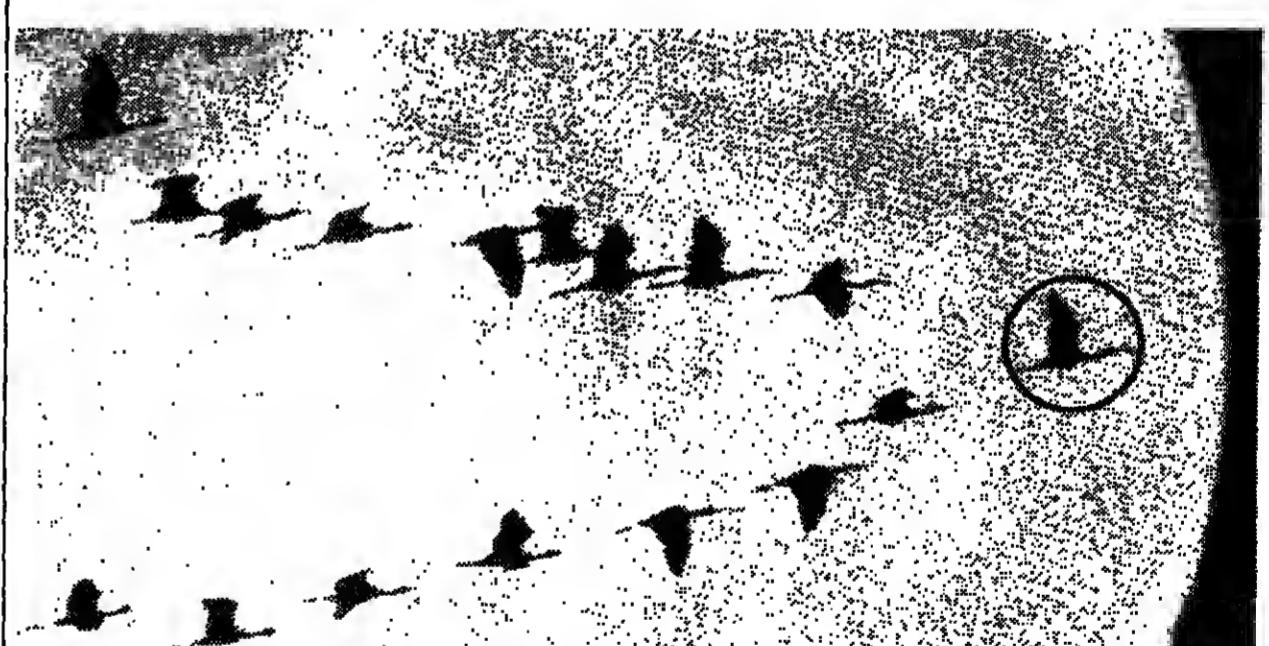
The best places both to spend the evening and stay in Luang Prabang are the handful of colonial-style hotels. Many of them have terraces or verandas and all cost around \$50 a night for a room.

Near the tip of the peninsula is the Auberge Calao (tel. 856-71-212-100), the restored 19th-century headquarters of a Chinese-Portuguese trading company, and the Villa Santi (tel. 856-71-212-267), the former residence of a princess that has been fixed up by her descendants. The Hotel Souvannaphoum (tel. 856-71-212-200), named for the prince who owned it as a palace, is a little further into town. The more modern Phou Vao Hotel (tel. 856-71-212-194), with landscaped gardens and a swimming pool, is just outside town.

Guidebooks:

The better ones are those published by Lonely Planet and Footprint Handbooks. The London-based Rough Guides will also soon publish a guide to Laos with a large section dedicated to Luang Prabang.

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WELCOME TO OUR HOME

Pushing Pedals From Sea to Sea

Bicycle Routes Span Continents

By Rick Smith

IF YOU have ever dreamed of jumping on a bicycle and heading for the horizon, you might be advised to look for a signpost near you. It could well be that someone with the same idea has tried it out and already mapped a route, perhaps for thousands of miles.

As the millennium approaches, an assortment of politicians, environmentalists, athletes and tourism promoters have joined together to launch ambitious national and international networks of cycle routes. The United States, Britain and a group funded by the European Community are all launching major initiatives for the year 2000.

These routes, some planned and others already in existence, cross major mountain ranges, follow old military or migration routes and span continents. Some of the better traveled circuits are becoming dotted with hotels and stores that are catering to the special needs of cyclists.

"There is a trend toward more active vacations and people want a sense of accomplishment," said Kevin Condit, a director of Adventure Cycling, a nonprofit foundation based in Missoula, Montana.

That organization estimates that each year about 1,000 cyclists are now using its three mapped routes crossing the United States from ocean to ocean. It also has mapped routes plying both coasts and is coordinating a mountain biking route that roughly tracks the Continental Divide from Canada to Mexico.

And on the drawing boards is EuroVelo, a venture with funding from the European Union that envisions 12 routes crossing Europe from various angles, including one from Moscow to Galway, Ireland, and another from Norway's North Cape to the tip of Sicily.

Neither of these organizations is in the business of building pathways. Instead they send out teams to reconnoiter the best existing roadways and paths, set up contact with local authorities and publish extensive maps designed for long-distance cyclists.

This is also the approach that has been followed in Germany, where the Allgemeiner Deutscher Fahrrad-Club, the national cyclist federation, will introduce this spring a 60-page guide showing 30 of the most attractive cycling routes in both the eastern and western parts of the country.

The British organization Sustrans (for "Sustainable Transport") goes one step further. It also initiates construction of new pathways to fill out its National Cycle Network, which it hopes will encompass 3,500 miles (5,600 kilometers) by 2000 and 8,000 miles by 2005. About 2,000 miles are already in place, with roughly half of that on pathways dedicated to non-motorized traffic.

"We want to make it possible for people who have lost the idea of transport by bicycle to try it again if there is an easy and safe way to do it," said Philip Inshall, one of the directors of Sustrans.

"We don't build for cyclists, but for people who cycle," said Richard Tibenham, a spokesman for the organization.

Switzerland recently provided a closely followed prototype for other national networks. Several years ago, a half dozen dedicated cyclists, half of whom pride themselves on not knowing how to drive a car, formed a small company called Veloburo in the small town of Olten and decided to lobby for a

'Hotels and stores are catering to the needs of cyclists.'



Source: Adventure Cycling

national network.

"The situation was chaotic before," said Rolf Brucker, one of the founders. "Some cantons had a system and others did not. You would be going along and suddenly things would change. It was very confusing."

Soon Veloburo had sparked interest in the federal and local governments, tourist boards, athletic clubs and the national railroad.

Together they mustered a budget of over 15 million francs (\$10.4 million), and nine months ago the government dedicated a network of 3,300 kilometers and nine routes crisscrossing the country.

"Now there are 10,000 standardized signs and 250 panels of maps and information scattered across Switzerland that cyclists can easily follow," he said.

Veloburo has functioned as a sort of hot house for ideas, the kind of organization where people get together and develop a vision," said Mr. Inshall of Britain's Sustrans.

The Swiss effort typifies the grassroots nature of many national initiatives. U.S. federal programs for development of cycling facilities, notably the large packages passed in 1991 and 1997, are typically financed on a matched funding basis where Washington matches local contributions.

The EuroVelo project, launched in 1997, has received a modest 100,000 euros (\$110,000) in seed money from the European Community, but the funds are matching contributions from a wide variety of local contributors, including the cities of Glasgow, Barcelona, Copenhagen and Malmo; the Estonian Road Administration; the Croatian, Danish, Dutch and Czech tourist boards; the Italian provinces of Turin and Reggio nell'Emilia, and the Spanish regions of Valencia, Andalusia and Navarra.

"About 60 organizations in 22 countries have contributed," said Victoria Gil, the EuroVelo coordinator in Brussels, who noted that the organization is hoping to build a wide base of support to gain further funding.

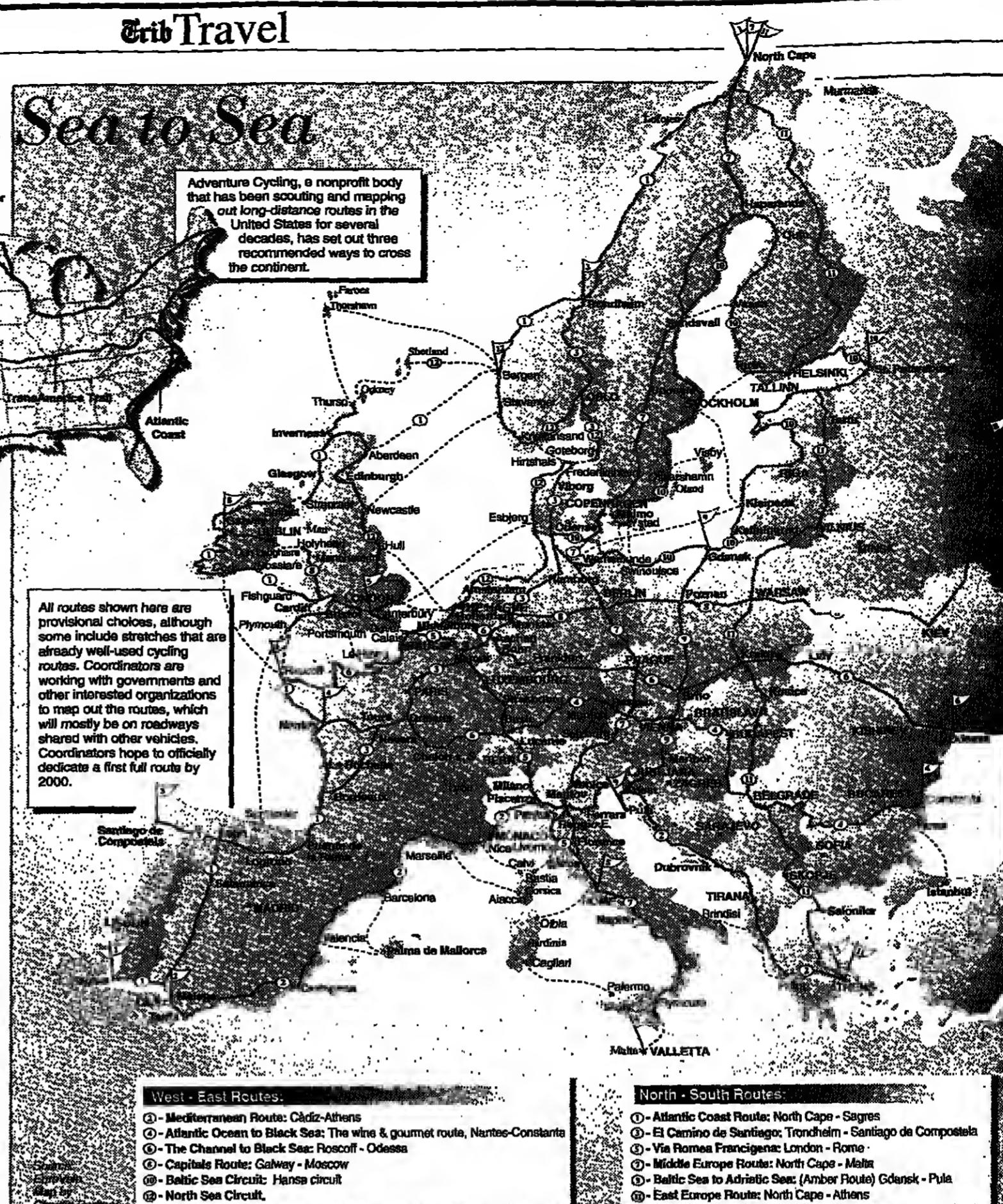
"We have had more contact with local and regional governments than with national ones," she said.

EUROVELO is aiming to have one of its 12 projected cross-European routes mapped out by 2000. It is also in the process of deciding if it wants a uniform system of signs or instead wants to concentrate its resources on incorporating instructions in its maps.

As tourism grows in importance for many regions and especially for struggling backwaters, the rewards of so-called cyclotourism can be impressive.

A new study being prepared by EuroVelo notes that hotels in some Austrian towns along the Donauradweg, a path that follows the bends of the Danube from Passau, Germany,

to Vienna, are booking as much as 80 percent



of overnight stays from cyclists.

"All of the towns along this route have benefited from the cyclists," said Walter Grassl, a spokesman for Oesterreich Werbung, an organization promoting tourism in Austria. He noted that the route of approximately 350 kilometers largely follows a path used in the past by teams of horses to pull rafts on the river.

There is now a category of 40 "Bike Hotels" in Austria that must provide repair tools, bicycle storage, "low-fat meals" and weather information. Other services range from guided tours to massages. In Switzerland, more than 100 hotels have been classified as velotels, or cyclist hotels, and provide similar services in eight price categories.

"We think we had 120,000 overnight stays by cyclists in Swiss hotels last summer," said Joerg Krebs, a spokesman for Schweiz Tourismus, the Swiss tourist organization, in Zurich. "But that was the first year of the new network and we are aiming to lift that to 250,000 to 300,000."

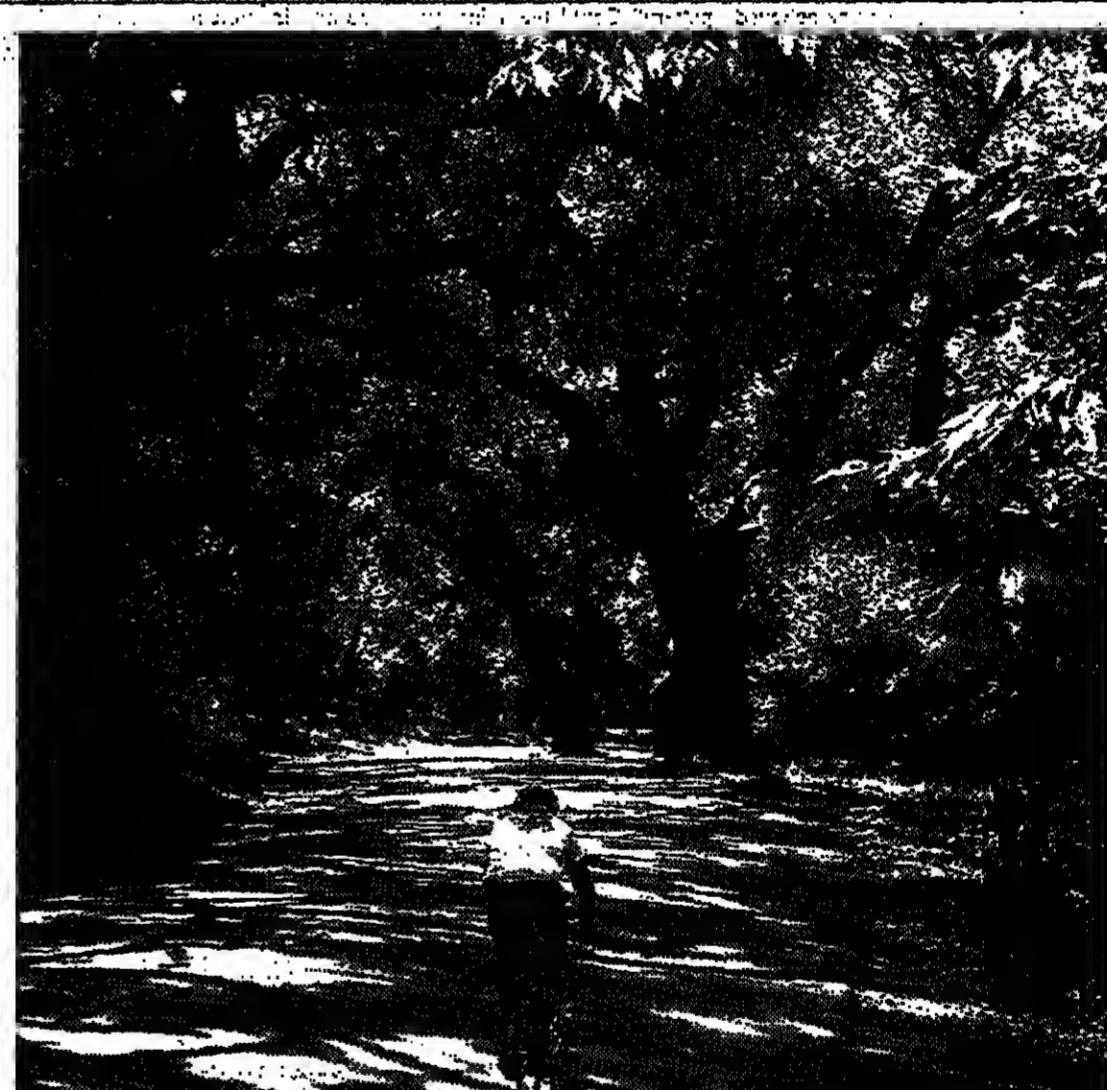
The prospect of armies of relatively quiet and peaceful, nonpolluting tourists has produced more than a few turnaround stories for depressed communities.

When the small town of Moab, Utah, was devastated by the closing of its uranium mines in the 1980s, a few miners who were hobby cyclists knew how intriguing the local terrain was for cyclists and opened a bike shop.

"It was a matter of survival," said Marian DeLay, director of the Grand County Travel Council.

The town has since been dubbed a world capital of mountain biking and the town of 6,500 now has 49 restaurants, 1,600 hotel rooms and 13 operators who rent bicycles and do tours. Although the town is also attractive to general tourists as a gateway to scenic canyon areas, it estimates that several hundred thousand of its visitors come each year just to cycle.

RICK SMITH is on the staff of the International Herald Tribune.



A cyclist in Fallbrook, California. Many regions are discovering the value of cyclotourism.

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HEALTH/SCIENCE

TOMORROW
SMF

Guiding the Elderly To Good Nutrition

By Jane E. Brody
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Many ailments that afflict elderly people are caused or indirectly worsened by poor nutrition — an inadequate intake of essential nutrients, dietary fiber and water. Health problems like heart disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, kidney disease and even cancer are influenced by the foods consumed, or not consumed, especially in older people.

Poor choice of foods, rather than a shortage of finances, is the usual reason. Studies indicate that nutritional shortcomings are common among the elderly who are well-to-do as well as those with limited resources.

Studies have shown that just as a child's nutritional requirements differ in quantity and quality from an adult's, the nutritional needs of the elderly differ from those of younger adults.

The Food Guide Pyramid to good eating habits devised in 1992 by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services depicts the number of recommended servings of each food group to be consumed per day by an adult who wants to remain healthy. The pyramid calls for a daily intake of six to 11 servings of grain-based foods, three to five servings of vegetables, two to four servings of fruits, two to three servings of a high-protein food (meat, poultry, fish, dried beans, eggs and nuts) and two to three servings of dairy foods. Fats, oils and sweets — at the tip of the pyramid — should be eaten sparingly.

But large numbers of elderly Americans fall seriously short of these recommendations, consuming the least nutritious choices in each food category, like white bread instead of whole grain and fruit juice instead of whole fruit. In addition, as energy needs decline with age, the elderly tend to eat fewer calories, and hence fewer servings, of the recommended food groups.

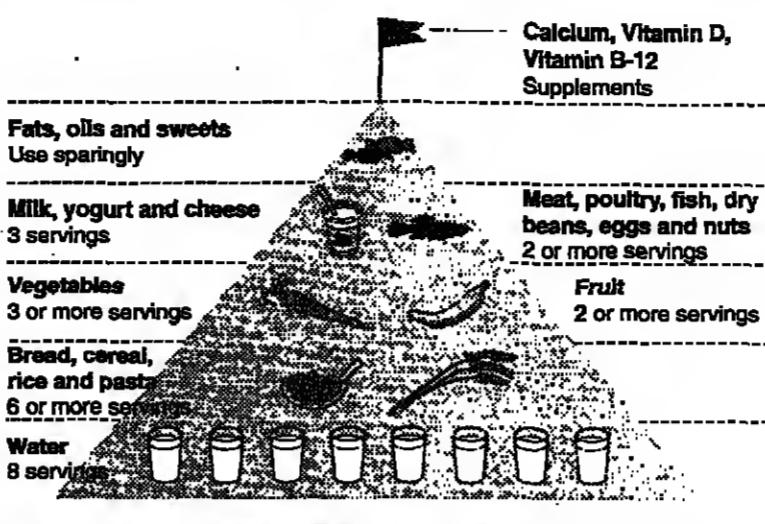
With these problems in mind, Dr. Robert Russell, a professor of medicine and nutrition at Tufts University in Boston and his colleagues at the Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts, Dr. Alice Lichtenstein and Helen Rasmussen, a registered dietitian, have developed a revised food guide pyramid for people over 70.

This guide has a new foundation: water, eight 8-ounce (240-milliliter) glasses of it (or its nonalcoholic, caffeine-free equivalent) each day. Dr. Russell said that "older people have a reduced thirst mechanism — they have to consciously think of drinking more and keeping well hydrated." He explained that without enough water, blood pressure can fall dangerously low, clots may form and block blood vessels; kidney function may be compromised and constipation can become chronic.

The next level — six or more servings a day of grain-based foods like bread, cereal, rice and pasta — must emphasize fiber-rich choices, the Tufts researchers say. Then come the fruits and vegetables, both of which are best consumed as fiber-rich whole foods, not juice. Furthermore, they say, the recommended

Eating Right From Bottom to Top

Scientists have developed a new food pyramid specifically for people over 70, whose nutritional needs are often lacking.



Source: Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University

The New York Times

three or more servings of vegetables and two or more servings of fruits should feature foods that are richly colored — dark green, orange, red or yellow. These are richest in essential nutrients.

In the dairy group, the three recommended servings a day should feature low-fat choices. Within the meat group, the two or more daily servings should emphasize variety and feature fish and dried beans as well as lean cuts of meat and poultry, the new pyramid suggests.

Overall, the consumption of high-fat and highly sweetened foods should be limited since they provide nutritionally empty calories and leave less room in the quotient for nutrient-rich foods.

As for the types of fats used in cooking, in dressings and as table spreads, the Tufts scientists recommend liquid oils and, if margarine is used it should be free of so-called trans fatty acids, which behave like artery-clogging saturated fat.

The Tufts researchers, who are publishing their suggested food guide in the March issue of *The Journal of Nutrition*, have added something new to the pyramid: a supplement "flag" at the peak. Dr. Russell explained that few older people were able to get enough calcium, Vitamin B-12 and Vitamin D from their diets, and many would have to take supplements to fulfill nutritional needs.

The Solar System: Oddball of the Universe?

By John Noble Wilford
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The discovery of planets around other stars has made Epicureans of astrophysicists. Not that they now put out the fine silver, pop the cork and dress for dinner by candlelight every long night under the observatory dome; they are still unwrapping their tired sandwiches and tearing open the corn chips. But nowadays their tastes run to the cosmic musings of the eponymous founder of Epicurean philosophy.

Epicurus, a Greek philosopher in the fourth century B.C., did not explicitly predict the existence of planets around stars other than the sun, but he believed in an infinity of worlds, meaning other ordered systems beyond the visible universe as it was then conceived.

This contrasted to the Earth-centered cosmos of his contemporary, Aristotle, whose cosmology prevailed in Western thought for more than two millennia.

Only in the last three years have astrophysicists established the reality of later-day Epicurean speculations about a plurality of worlds, which in recent centuries came to mean planets beyond the solar system, some possibly inhabited. But while astrophysicists tip their hats to Epicurus, they just wish he had advised them how to make sense of the distant planets being detected by their telescopes.

Finding something is not the same as discovering what is found. The more astrophysicists study the growing evidence of extrasolar planets, the less they resemble anything in the one planetary system they had known and on which they had based their theories: the sun's family of planets.

At last count, astrophysicists in the United States and Europe had observed 18 nearby sun-like stars showing telltale motions from the gravity of large, unseen planets orbiting them, and they fully expect to find more. Yet they suspect that they have seen enough to begin rethinking how nature creates and destroys planets and choreographs their orbital minuet.

Nine of the objects hug closer to their parent stars than Mercury is to the sun, closer than standard theory predicted planets could be; one is so near that it makes a complete revolution — its full year — every 3.1 Earth days. The other nine travel unusually elliptical, or oval-shaped, orbits, several of them plunging

in relatively close to their stars and then swinging far out again; orbits in the solar system are almost circular. Several extrasolar planets are at least three times as massive as Jupiter, the solar system's giant, and one is estimated to have 11 times the Jovian mass — raising questions about how massive can a planet be.

Geoffrey Marcy, the astrophysicist at San Francisco State University who has had a hand in most of the discoveries, is as surprised as anyone. "A trend is now being stamped on these discoveries that we thought, frankly, would go away," he said.

But it has not, and questions pile up. Many stars may have planets, as the discoveries suggest, but is there a typical pattern? Could the solar system be an oddball? If so, does that diminish prospects for intelligent life existing elsewhere in the universe?

Alan Boss, a theorist of planetary systems at the Carnegie Institution of Wash-

ington, thinks astrophysicists will eventually "find systems that look something like our solar system." He acknowledged that they will also "find many more surprises to make us rethink what we're doing."

Astronomers concede that so far their sampling of extrasolar planets may not be representative, only a reflection of detection capabilities. They have no proof yet of another sun-like star with more than one planet, or with anything considerably smaller than a Jupiter.

But it is easier to observe the gravitational effects of Jupiter-class planets, especially if they are very close to the host stars. It takes years of repeated observations to gather evidence for planets traveling the longer orbits at much greater distances from a star. And it is not yet possible to detect in any orbit, near or far, an Earth-size or even Saturn-size planet.

The newest detection, announced last month, was of the smallest extrasolar planet yet examined, one that has less than half of Jupiter's mass and is only 1.4

times more massive than Saturn. The planet, in a tight 3.5-day orbit around the star HD 75289, was found by a team of Swiss astronomers led by Michel Mayor of the Geneva Observatory, who in October 1995 reported the first confirmed planet around another star like the sun.

In the next decade, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration expects to fly several space telescopes for a more comprehensive survey of planets around nearby stars. On the drawing board is an advanced satellite called Planet Finder that someday could send back the first pictures of Earth-type extrasolar planets. "It's a terribly exciting field right now," said Stephen Lubow, an astrophysicist at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore. "The discoveries have really opened a new window on the nature of planetary objects."

The first discoveries of extrasolar planets should have prepared astrophysicists to expect the unexpected. In 1992, radio astronomers reported the first strong evidence of such objects, but the two planets were not orbiting a normal star. They accompanied an pulsar, the dense remnant of an exploded star.

Mr. Mayor and Didier Queloz of Switzerland then detected a planet around 51 Pegasi, a solar-type star, and this was confirmed by Mr. Marcy and a colleague, R. Paul Butler. The first accepted planet of an ordinary star excited and puzzled astronomers. Both teams were startled to find that the planet, about half the mass of Jupiter, was in an almost circular orbit less than one-sixth the equivalent distance of Mercury to the sun.

Ever since then, theorists have been puzzling over how several of the large planets — dubbed "hot Jupiters" because of their proximity to the intense heat of their stars — could be where they are. Why were they not out somewhere on an elongated orbit to the inner planetary system, while the other might fly off toward the fringes of the system, perhaps escaping into interstellar space?

Because known physical laws rule out the formation of large planets so close to a star, theorists think they formed in a more benign environment far out and migrated inward. The unlucky ones probably crashed into their star.

One of the first detections by the Marcy-Butler team, announced in January 1996, introduced another puzzlement. The planet around 70 Virginis was more than seven times the Jovian mass and not as close to its star as many others, but its orbit was highly elliptical. Other dis-

coveries revealed similar characteristics. Some powerful gravitational forces, astrophysicists said, must have perturbed the planets' orbits. Frederic Rasio of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, working with Eric Ford, has proposed a concept of gravitational scattering that, he said, "explains very naturally and simply planets in wide eccentric orbits."

The idea involves two or more huge planets orbiting in close proximity so that they generate a kind of gravitational sling-shot. The forces might sling one planet off on an elongated orbit to the inner planetary system, while the other might fly off toward the fringes of the system, perhaps escaping into interstellar space.

Fear: Response To a Hostile World

By Natalie Angier
New York Times Service

"That means you don't have much self-confidence, and you tend to think of the world as a hostile place."

Was he implying that I was hostile?

"The two often go together, as you might expect," he said. "If you're sensitive to threats, it's hard to have a hopeful view of life. That negativity can end up eroding your self-esteem. On the other hand, if you are naturally high in harm avoidance, and you're raised in a supportive environment where you learn what the safe limits are, you can gain confidence and self-directedness, and avoid becoming excessively fearful."

"That's fine if you're a kid. But what can you do if you're a fearful adult?"

"It's not impossible to change," Dr. Cloninger answered, "but it is difficult. One thing we've learned is that temperament tends to remain stable over the course of a lifetime."

In my waking life, my mind sets out for my inspection that fleshiest source of anxiety: work. I worry about assignments still to be reported, parts of my latest book that I hate, the many stories that I have started but never finished.

From what I have been able to gather through discussions with some psychologists, I am fearful by nature. It is not a disease, they tell me, it is a temperamental flavor. My fearfulness can even be parsed. According to the reigning model of personality development, one's character is constructed of about six core components, which are mixed, matched, chopped and puréed into the primordial soup we call the self.

Each dimension is thought to be partly inherited, and partly formed, or deformed, by experience. The ancients knew these personality modules as the "dispositional humors," giving them zesty names like "phlegm" and "choler." Scientists now speak of human nature as a compendium of the traits "harm avoidance," "novelty-seeking," "self-directedness," "cooperativeness," "persistence" and "extraversion."

Noting that "tendency to wring one's hands" was not among the dirty half-dozen, I called Dr. C. Robert Cloninger of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and asked him, "What's the recipe for a crybaby?"

"There are two aspects of personality related to fearfulness," he said. "One is being high in the dimension of harm avoidance. This means that you're very sensitive to all sorts of potentially uncomfortable stimuli. You anticipate threats and pains, and you try to avoid them."

"The other part of fearfulness is being low in self-directedness," he said. "Many of the threats that our forebears confronted no longer exist."

OR take the shallow breathing and tendency toward paralysis that can accompany intense fear, he said: What better way to fool a lurking predator than to act invisible, or dead?

"A little bit of anxiety is still a good thing to have," Dr. Hofer added. "Performance artists say they need a surge of anxiety to put on a great show. But perpetual anxiety and fearfulness are another matter. They don't make sense. Many of the threats that our forebears confronted no longer exist."

IN BRIEF

From the 16th Century, Message From the Stars

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A 400-year-old horoscope that was written for an Austrian nobleman by the astronomer Johannes Kepler himself was discovered in a drawer at a University of California at Santa Cruz archive.

The document, written in a flowery hand by the man who helped discover the laws of orbital motion, was found by an astronomer, Anthony Misch, in December while he was researching solar eclipse expeditions. It is not yet clear exactly what Kepler was predicting for the life of Hans Hannibal Hutter von Hutterhofen, who was born in 1586.

The document includes the nobleman's date and time of birth in German, as well as a sepia-colored diamond with an X through it enclosed by a square. It is signed by another eminent astronomer, Wilhelm Struve, declaring that the horoscope is written "in the hand of Kepler, from the collection of Kepler Manuscripts in Pulkova." The Pulkova observatory was founded near St. Petersburg in the early 1800s.

Preventing Baldness

LONDON (Reuters) — Proteins that make brain cells grow could lead to new drugs to prevent baldness or help people

get rid of unwanted hair, *New Scientist* magazine reported.

German dermatologists at Humboldt University in Berlin carried out experiments on shaved mice that showed that two growth factors and the genes that produce them might trigger follicle shrinkage. The scientists said the two substances worked by binding with a receptor on a cell. Drugs designed to block the receptor could prevent baldness, while others could increase hair loss by mimicking the action of the proteins.

Treating Lower Back Pain

CHICAGO (Reuters) — Lower back pain, one of the most common problems in modern society, can be treated by electrical stimulation through needles inserted in the muscles and soft tissue of the back, researchers report.

The report from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, said the technique offered effective short-term relief and appeared to have a cumulative effect that might offer "prolonged beneficial effects in patients with long-term lower back pain."

The treatment method — called percutaneous electrical nerve stimulation — is designed to stimulate peripheral

sensory nerves. It differs from acupuncture, which also at times employs electricity, in that instead of inserting needles in specified "acupuncture points," the probes are placed in areas that Western medicine has determined contain nerve endings. While the points might duplicate at times, it would be by chance, the researchers said.

On Breast-Feeding

UNTED NATIONS, New York (NYT) — Increased breast-feeding could save the lives of up to 1.5 million of the roughly 12 million children under the age of 5 who die every year around the world, according to initial findings presented by a group of women's organizations.

The organizations, which have been trying to measure the economic benefits of breast-feeding, told the annual meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women that they hope to counter what they see as a worldwide decline in the practice by convincing governments, health authorities and ordinary families that they should do more to encourage mothers to breast-feed.

Children who are not breast-fed tend to have weaker immune systems and are at greater risk from infectious diseases, especially diarrhea and respiratory illnesses, they say.

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

America and Europe

The United States and Europe are quarreling over bananas, airplanes and beef, working together to secure peace in Kosovo and tangoing over the future of NATO. This improbable confluence of events reflects important changes taking place in trans-Atlantic relations. Perhaps more clearly than at any time since the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, America and its European allies are confronting the economic frictions of globalization and adjusting to a world no longer shaped by the clash of ideologies.

There are new stresses in America's relations with Europe, but there are also encouraging signs that Europe may emerge from this period prepared to take a greater role in maintaining security on the Continent. That would be healthy for both Europe and America.

The most promising evidence of this shift is the negotiations over Kosovo. European countries have shown themselves willing to take on more political and military responsibility than they did in Bosnia four years ago. France and Britain have been especially assertive. But the latest American effort to lock up a deal before the formal peace talks resume later this month in France suggests that Washington's leadership and leverage will not be easy to replace.

NATO is another arena of change. While the alliance is preparing to mark its 50th anniversary next month with the admission of three new members, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, all is not harmonious. There is vigorous and potentially divisive debate within NATO about the alliance's reliance on nuclear weapons and how it should react to threats from beyond Europe. These discussions are drawing new energy from a younger generation of European leaders, especially Germany's new chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, and Britain's prime minister, Tony Blair.

With Russia no longer a military threat and three of its former allies about to join NATO, the question of whether the alliance still needs to

threaten nuclear retaliation against conventional attack deserves discussion, as Germany has suggested. Also, most European NATO members rightly bristle at some of Washington's more ambitious efforts for enlisting NATO forces to defend common Western interests on distant battlefields.

Trade relations are in flux as well, primarily because of increased global competition. The rapid integration of world markets in the past decade, symbolized by new decision-making bodies like the World Trade Organization, is challenging the cozy protectionist policies that Europe used during the Cold War years to shelter its companies and workers from risk.

Europe is now trying to tilt its market in favor of local banana importers, aircraft manufacturers and beef farmers and ward off cheaper American competition. Since open protectionism is no longer respectable, Europe cloaks its efforts with arguments about air pollution, dangerous beef hormones and the devastation that free trade in bananas would produce in former Caribbean colonies. While not entirely without merit, these arguments disguise the real motives of European governments and impede reasonable solutions. A trans-Atlantic trade war is in nobody's interest.

Europe and America may also be headed for troubles in other economic areas. The introduction of Europe's new currency, the euro, could force European governments to restrictive monetary policies that could retard needed economic growth, slowing America's own economy and worsening trade tensions. The European Union's slowness to admit members from Central and Eastern Europe is distorting the political and economic development of the entire Continent.

Further frictions are likely as America and Europe adjust their relationship to new circumstances. That is fine, as long as problems are resolved constructively and not allowed to undermine the vital trans-Atlantic partnership.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Verdict on a Tragedy

It would be easy to dismiss the decision by a court martial in North Carolina to acquit Captain Richard J. Ashby of manslaughter and other charges in the tragic deaths of 20 skiers in Italy last year. They were killed when his plane severed the cable of the gondola in which they were riding, and the Marine Corps pilot was, to be sure, flying too low and too fast. There is a righteous sense that deadly recklessness must be punished and a need to repair frayed relations with allies. The American insistence on trying Captain Ashby in the United States, rather than let the Italian justice system prosecute him, only heightens the sense among Europeans and victims' families prone to distrust a "verdict" reached by his fellow Marines that his trial was a whitewash.

And yet the jury verdict deserves more respect than this. The function of the trial, after all, was to assess dispassionately the guilt or innocence of a person who stood to be sentenced to as much as 200 years in prison if convicted. Nor are courts martial generally known as places where acquittals come easily. The defense argued that Captain Ashby's maps did not show the gondola line, that his altimeter may have been inaccurate and that he had not been correctly trained. After hearing

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

Stop the Banana War

Bananas are funny, somehow. Yet this tiff is deadly serious. The immediate priority must be for both sides to seek compromise. America should withdraw its sanctions. The EU should start treating banana imports equally, whether they are shipped from hurricane-hit Honduras by America's Chiquita or from former European colonies in the Caribbean by Ireland's Fyffes. But the WTO's dispute settlement procedures also need urgent overhaul to stop such rows from festering in future. And America and Europe must grasp the desirability of abiding by WTO judgments. The WTO, like any international organization, ultimately relies on consent. It can work only if all its members, and particularly the biggest ones, agree to act in good faith.

—The Economist (London).

Tokyo Turns a Deaf Ear

Two years ago the U.S. Justice Department began adding to its list of war criminals the names of Japanese who are believed to have taken part in atrocities during World War II. The list is used, among other things, to bar undesirable aliens from entering the United States. Eli Rosenbaum, director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, says Japan has refused to provide even birth dates for the dozens of Japanese suspects now on the list. This is consistent with Japan's institutionalized reluctance to acknowledge the extent of the crimes committed by its armed forces and secret police before and during World War II. [In Japan], right-wing nationalists continue to wield strong political influence.

—Los Angeles Times.

What About the Hostage People of Saddam's Iraq?

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — While American pilots conduct a war of attrition against Iraq with audacity and skill, their president and his advisers have done little to construct a political strategy to justify the risks the flyers take and the destruction they inflict on a traumatized and suffering nation.

In its eagerness to do enough to defend Republican and other critics but not risk fundamental change in Iraq, the Clinton White House seems to have lost sight of the centrality of the Iraqi people in this ongoing tragedy.

In their majority they are held hostage by a criminal gang of murderers in charge of the state apparatus.

President Bill Clinton needs to hold that one thought in his mind. He should not let the din of "expert" opinion on ethnic divisions in Iraqi society or the importance of territorial integrity drive from his consciousness the grim reality that each decision he makes either hastens or delays an end to the enslavement of Iraqis at mortal risk.

His own policy-making bureaucracy will do its best to help him avoid seeing so starkly his responsibility and America's national responsibility toward a people on whom the world's only su-

perpower has waged intermittent war for nearly a decade.

Mr. Clinton campaigned on his ability to feel people's pain, but as president he seems to avoid looking closely at the consequences his actions and statements have on real people abroad. He now clearly identifies with the practitioners of policy rather than with the people who bear the brunt of his decisions. (For evidence see not only Iraq but also China, Congo, Russia and for a long time Bosnia and Kosovo.)

America's television viewers lowered in details of Mr. Clinton's virtual sex with Monica Lewinsky the other night. They should be paying more attention to his virtual foreign policy. His diplomacy too often exalts the instant gratification of appearance and spin over the frequently uncomfortable realities and hard choices that every administration confronts abroad. He seems to be hoping to leave office with these crises stroked but unconsummated.

Mr. Clinton is too often abetted in this by overstimulated media, which play out foreign challenges as being

about the mettle or brilliance of the president or Madeleine Albright or some other national security worthy, rather than being about the underlying issues that cause people to fight, die or sink into poverty.

In Iraq, a virtual foreign policy risks leaving Mr. Clinton stranded between self-defeating options, as the simultaneous war of attrition and the death of UN arms inspectors illustrates.

U.S. warplanes have hit some 200 Iraqi targets since mid-December. Saddam Hussein and his army are clearly rattled by this war of attrition, which was touched off by his continuing refusal to cooperate with UN arms inspectors. But the air raids and disclosures by U.S. officials that the CIA used the inspections for its own narrow and unsuccessful coup-mounting efforts ensure that Saddam will not permit a resumption of the international hunt for atomic, biological or chemical weapons.

There has been no monitoring of any kind in Iraq since November.

The war of attrition is a justified and useful tactic in itself. But it does not have much durability as an isolated method of dealing with Iraq. A lucky Iraqi anti-aircraft shot, or a spectacular

accident that results in U.S. losses would cause many Americans to question the costs and benefits of the open-ended raids on a country held hostage internally by Saddam's forces and externally by punitive sanctions.

The air campaign concentrates on blowing up Iraq's air defense installations. Such narrowly targeted raids make sense militarily to prepare the ground for a wider attack. But in its statements and actions the Clinton administration shows that it is not mounting wider, consistent action. It blames the Iraqi opposition and American opinion for being too divided to permit a more aggressive policy.

The White House permits a military commander like General Anthony Zinni to publicly undercut its promises of action by proclaiming that a victory by the Iraqi opposition is undesirable because Saddam's most effective foes do not belong to the same Sunni Arab minority that rules Iraq.

Such confusion and incoherence are the inevitable result of virtual policy-making. Only by focusing on Iraq's 22 million endangered hostages can Mr. Clinton change that.

The Washington Post.

Russia Matters, So 'Strategic Patience' Isn't Enough

By Fred Hiatt

WASHINGTON — Not so long ago it was assumed that Russia's health was essential to world stability. Then Russia's troubles slid from bad to worse, and the rest of the world hardly seemed to notice. Now some in Washington suggest that maybe Russia didn't matter so much after all.

Certainly many Russian politicians believe that the United States has written them off. (Most of the rest believe that the United States is out to destroy them.)

When President Bill Clinton launched Desert Fox on the eve of his impeachment, Republicans in Congress smelled one rat, Russians another. It was also the eve of a scheduled Duma vote on the START-2 arms control treaty. The U.S. military action doomed the vote. So if Mr. Clinton really cared about relations with Russia, many Russians reasoned, he would have postponed his bombing campaign.

It is not just Russians who suspect that the Clinton administration has given up. "The U.S.-Russia relationship has, in the last eight years, gone from a strategic partnership," Republican Senator Dick Lugar said recently, "to a pragmatic one, to a relationship of benign neglect, to one that is lurching toward malign neglect."

Administration officials feed this perception when they advocate, in Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott's words, a policy of "strategic patience and persistence."

In fact, most administration officials have not concluded that Russia does not matter. They still believe, as Mr. Talbott also said, that "the stakes, for us, are huge." They just are not sure what to do about it.

As Russia's post-Communist transition stalled, the country

lost much of its ability to influence the world, at least in a positive way. Its economy now accounts for about 1 percent of world output. Russia remains the world's biggest country, but its territory has eased to be a key indicator of power. It holds vast stores of oil and mineral wealth, but in a global economy based increasingly on knowledge and technology, those, too, are of dwindling value.

The declining population of 150 million is too impoverished to tempt many companies as a consumer market. And despite a high level of education, its value as a labor pool is dimmed by the crime and uncertain laws and taxes that keep most foreign companies away.

So Russia's potential influence is mostly negative. It can scare the world with unintended nuclear weapons, degraded missile-launch computers, the export of crime and pollution and contagious disease.

U.S. policy has evolved in two ways as a result.

Most aid is aimed at averting the bad, not promoting the good. Three-quarters of U.S. assistance dollars, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has said, "are devoted to programs that diminish the threat of nuclear war and the danger that weapons of mass destruction will fall into the wrong hands."

And as Russia has moved "from the core of the international system to the periphery," to quote the Carnegie Endowment's Michael McFaul, it has also moved to the periphery of U.S. foreign policy.

On issue after issue — Kosovo, Iraq, Iran, NATO expansion, anti-missile defense — the message from the administration is that Russia does not matter enough to derail U.S. policy.

Excluded from U.S. policy-making, Russia then emphasizes even more its spoiler role: shipping dangerous technology to Iran, encouraging Serbian aggression, tweaking the United States wherever possible. And so the two nations find themselves in an unhealthy downward cycle, a long way from the strategic partnership envisioned at the opening of the decade.

Thus, mostly Russia's fault. Until it gets its reforms on track, its influence will continue to diminish. A foreign policy that indulges Russian nostalgia and wishful thinking, as the United States did with summity and premature expansion of the Group of Seven, cannot change the reality. It is more likely, in

fact, to delay reform by convincing Russia that normal rules will not apply to it.

Yet "strategic patience" is not sufficient. Russia does matter. If it takes its place as a democratic, free market economy, pulling its neighbors in the same direction through force of successful example, one kind of world will result. If it implodes or grows hostile, the world will be very different, and far more dangerous.

That understanding motivates those who continue to search for a U.S. policy that will speak to Russia's potential and not just to its pathologies. U.S.-Russia relations need "a new and dramatic high-profile program," Mr. Lugar says. He proposes a U.S. commitment to help Russia produce 10,000 masters of business adminis-

tration and 10,000 certified public accountants.

Some U.S. officials seek ways to turn ballistic missile defense, at the moment one of the greatest irritants in the relationship, into something positive by proposing a cooperative undertaking.

And many arms control specialists continue to urge unilateral U.S. steps to reduce the nuclear arsenal and take it off trigger alert. This could encourage Russia to follow suit.

Some say all of this must wait until a spent Boris Yeltsin and a U.S. administration identified with failed policies both pass from the scene. But two years in modern Russian history is a long time. The next U.S. administration may find itself with even less attractive options than those available today.

The Washington Post.

Toward a Neo-Cold War With China?

By Tom Plate

LOS ANGELES — The Clinton administration has backed away from a preliminary decision made in 1996 to block a large telecommunications deal with China. The reversal stunned California-based Hughes Electronics.

The company watched helplessly as a half-billion-dollar satellite contract, years in negotiation, seemed to be going down the drain.

President Bill Clinton killed the Hughes deal to protect Al Gore from the predictable Republican assault that their administration has been "soft on China." The Clinton retreat came amid the backdrop of a Republican-led probe said to conclude that past U.S. technology transfers did provide aid and technological comfort to the People's Liberation Army.

The gigantic, meticulous

visit of Prime Minister Zhu Rongji. An administration official, who would speak only on condition of anonymity, commented: "The [Hughes] decision is terrible news. But it certainly does fit into the larger picture of a sharp downturn in China-U.S. relations."

Beijing bears a good measure of blame. It simply seems not to care much about the rights of political opponents, despite its recent signature on a UN human rights covenant, or about the mixed record it presents to a concerned Western public, not to mention ultra-critical human rights groups.

The congressional leadership seems that it may finally have a hot issue with which to nail President Clinton. Perhaps Hughes's only hope now, a very long shot, is to amend the contract enough to meet Mr. Clinton's concerns and enable him to tell Congress to back down.

Politicians who would use the China issue for domestic advantage may burden future generations with a wholly unnecessary trans-Pacific cold war. Heed the words of a New York University professor, Joanna Waley-Cohen, in her excellent new history, "The Sextants of China": "Westerners who blame [anti-American] Chinese rhetoric ... for the lion's share of the mutual hostility between the People's Republic and the United States fail to acknowledge the role of the American anti-Communist movement, which for years led the United States to treat the People's Republic as a virtual pariah."

Are Americans sure that a new cold war with China is necessary? Is the current Chinese menace that threatening?

Los Angeles Times.

The Prosecutor Is Out of Control

By Anthony Lewis

BOSTON — "I saw things this past year," Monica Lewinsky told Barbara Walters, "that I didn't know happened in this country."

What happened was that an out-of-control prosecutor and his thuggish deputies threatened and grossly abused Ms. Lewinsky, her family and her friends. And the purpose was not to fight crime of any serious kind but to destroy the president of the United States.

In the ABC television interview last Wednesday we heard a young woman describe a tawdry sexual encounter. Viewers might think her sympathetic or silly, but one thing was overwhelmingly clear. It was simply preposterous that those sexual antics should have produced a year of prosecutorial inquisition and the impeachment of the president.

Ken Starr's methods are the real story in Andrew Morton's "Monica's Story." Literary critics may mock the book's mawkishness, but it tells important things about prosecutorial abuse — abuse of a kind that most of us not only Ms. Lewinsky, did not know happened in America.

When Linda Tripp set the trap at the Ritz-Carlton on Jan. 16, 1998, Mr. Starr's agents took Ms. Lewinsky to Room 1012. A deputy prosecutor said they were ready to charge her with perjury, obstruction of justice, subornation of perjury, witness tampering and conspiracy, and she could go to prison for 27 years.

All those dread crimes were because she had signed an affidavit denying "sexual relations" with President Clinton.

including private correspondence about members of her family, was published in Mr. Starr's referral to the House.

On July 27, 1998, Ms. Lewinsky met with Starr to be questioned at length about what she would tell the grand jury if granted immunity. All had agreed that it would be a totally secret meeting. But when she got home she turned on the television set and heard a reporter say that Monica Lewinsky had met the deputies and admitted a sexual relationship with the president.

Some time after she appeared before the grand jury, Mr. Starr wanted a videotaped deposition from her, the book says, about "how, when, where and why she had performed oral sex on the president and... other intimate details." Why videotape? For someone's private delectation, or so that the world could see it? Ms. Lewinsky was devastated at the demand. When her lawyers objected, the questioning took place without cameras.

In the television interview, Ms. Lewinsky did not discuss Mr. Starr's methods — because he had forbidden her to do so. Under her immunity agreement she cannot talk to the press without his permission. He is using that clause for the outrageous purpose of protecting himself from criticism. That is consistent with his assertion last year that criticism of his office could amount to obstruction of justice.

"What do you think of Ken Starr?" Barbara Walters asked. Ms. Lewinsky replied, "I'm no prude, but they wanted very, very specific details about their sexual relationship. I thought it was wrong and quite disgusting."

Mr. Starr's office subpoenaed Ms. Davis's computer. And over objections from her and her lawyer, her e-mail,

The New York Times.

whereby she could marry her former soldier-fiancé, who now lives in Minnesota, by wireless.

Mile Bon

CAPITAL MARKETS ON MONDAY

Japan's Gamble on Interest Rates Poses Serious Risks to Yen and Economy

By Sheryl WuDunn

New York Times Service

TOKYO — The central bank has pushed overnight interest rates to an unprecedented low of effectively zero in one of its boldest experiments yet to invigorate the economy — basically allowing Japanese banks to borrow for free.

The Bank of Japan's move last week, which was one of the factors cited in the 5 percent surge in the Japanese stock market Friday, represents a gamble that banks will use this borrowed money to increase their own lending to businesses and individuals. The hope is that such a move will stimulate spending and generate a recovery in the world's second-largest economy, which is stuck in its worst recession since the end of World War II.

Led rates in the overnight money market, a critical part of the banking system, have been well below 1 percent for a while — a sign of how fragile both the weakly capitalized banks and the economy have become over the past few years.

Last month, the Bank of Japan announced it would bring rates down to 0.15 percent. Last week, the central bank poured about \$10 billion to

\$15 billion into the market each day, and the rates fell to 0.04 percent, then to 0.03 percent, then to 0.02 percent, then to 0.01 percent on Thursday. On Friday, the rate settled at 0.02 percent.

That means the rate is less than one-two hundredth the comparable level in the United States. At such a rate, a bank could borrow \$1 million overnight and pay just 27 cents in interest the next day.

Whether the astonishingly low rates will work is not yet clear. There are significant hazards to the approach — a massive flight of capital as investors seek higher returns in investments overseas, for example, or a plunge in the value of the yen. The Japanese currency did fall to a three-month low of 123.72 to the dollar in Tokyo on Friday, and some forecasters now say it could weaken to 130 fairly soon and far further later this year.

The biggest risk is that even with such low borrowing costs, the Bank of Japan may still not be able to coax banks to borrow and use that cheaper to money to expand lending to companies throughout the country.

A critical problem now is that banks have been so absorbed in treating their mountains of bad debt that they have been simply unwilling to

make new loans and have even been cutting their lending.

"This is still a trial period," said Kazuo Momma, an official at the Bank of Japan. "It takes time to evaluate what is happening in the market."

On Friday, at least, the market liked it. Encouraged by the central bank's moves earlier in the week, as well as a formal application for public money by the nation's biggest banks, investors sent stocks surging in the biggest one-day surge this year. That pushed the benchmark Nikkei 225 share average up 710.55 points, or 5.01 percent, to 14,834, its highest level since December.

The Bank of Japan's moves also brought down long-term bond rates, which last month were triple the level of October. The government is trying to expand the economy with more spending, and this has spooked investors who had dumped bonds and sent their yields soaring. Higher yields can choke an economic recovery by raising long-term borrowing costs.

The yield on the 10-year Japanese government bond, a benchmark for long-term rates, fell to 1.57 percent Friday, a three-month low.

The Bank of Japan was able to reduce

overnight lending rates by flooding the overnight money market with funds. The \$230 billion market is the lifeblood of the banking system and is a commonly used tool for banks and other financial institutions to borrow and lend short-term cash.

"It's amazing," said Akihiko Yokoyama, a fixed-income analyst at J.P. Morgan in Tokyo. "Can you imagine who would lend out money at zero percent?"

The answer seems to be: fewer and fewer lenders. And that could emerge as a problem. Insurance companies and investment trust funds no longer want to park their money there, and are putting it into regular bank deposit accounts or into longer-term money markets, such as one-month or three-month maturities.

Bank of Japan officials are suggesting that they may next try to lower interest rates in the money markets for one-month or three-month borrowings. But that could ultimately lead to capital flight, as investors move money abroad for higher returns.

"It's definitely a problem at the moment," said Clifford Shaw, president of Mercury Asset Management Japan Ltd. "Having rates at zero has all sorts of implications."



Most Active International Bonds

Rank	Name	Qty	Maturity	Price	Ctr Yd	Rank	Name	Qty	Maturity	Price	Ctr Yd
Australian Dollar											
202 Queensland Tr	416	04/14/05	104.5000	6.2700		247 Spain	416	07/30/04	102.3140	7.5200	
210-Fannie Mae	651	09/13/07	102.2250	6.1200		250 Germany Gilt	zero	07/16/99	98.8079	2.9400	
246 Queensland	8	09/14/07	115.9	5.9200							
British Pound											
70 Lcr Fin	416	12/07/28	95.2500	4.7200		152 Oesterreich Bank	zero	11/20/26	21.3500	5.7200	
98-London Mortg	616	07/07/02	105.2500	5.5200							
100-Telwest Regs	516	02/19/07	101.2244	5.1800							
108 Future Rentals	3	02/28/01	90.1	5.0200							
111-Union	6	11/17/01	100.2500	5.0200							
120-EIB	zero	12/07/28	124.0081	4.7700							
141-Lcr Fin	416	12/07/28	94.7500	4.4500							
147-Britain	8	12/07/01	103.1700	7.6100							
149-Britain	4	04/07/01	103.1700	7.6100							
229-Britain F	4	02/28/01	103.1700	7.6100							
212-Tech Finl Fin	7	11/04/07	104.8750	47.7500							
220-EIB	74	12/07/07	117.76	6.5100							
225-Hedgefin Int'l Fin	5	02/18/02	109.5700	5.8200							
227-Britain	74	12/07/07	125.3000	5.8200							
229-Finl Finl N	6	03/21/08	127.7200	5.1900							
243-EIB	54	12/07/09	105.0000	5.2400							
Danish Krone											
23-Denmark	8	01/15/07	113.0000	8.9700							
24-Denmark	7	11/15/07	113.9000	5.2700							
25-Denmark	6	11/15/09	113.9000	5.2700							
26-Denmark	9	11/15/00	106.9200	6.2600							
28-Denmark	8	11/15/01	111.7000	7.2600							
29-Denmark	6	11/15/02	122.0000	5.2000							
30-Denmark	6	12/07/01	101.8000	5.2000							
31-Denmark	6	12/07/02	101.8000	5.2000							
32-Denmark	7	12/07/04	110.9000	5.0800							
33-Denmark	4	02/15/01	104.0000	5.0800							
34-Denmark	7	12/07/04	110.9000	5.0800							
35-Denmark	6	12/07/05	105.3100	4.7500							
Deutsche Mark											
106-Germany T-bills	zero	04/16/99	99.4300	2.7400							
218-Credit Fonci	74	02/24/03	112.14	6.4600							
247-EIB	5	04/15/98	106.3750	4.7000							
Euro											
1-Germany	35	01/04/99	99.1270	3.7700							
3-Germany	54	01/04/08	111.0797	4.7300							
4-Germany	6	01/04/08	101.9200	4.0400							
5-Germany	44	01/04/08	104.9064	4.4000							
6-Germany	6	01/04/07	114.2200	4.3000							
7-Germany	34	01/04/28	108.8696	5.0300							
8-Germany	34	08/24/03	101.8000	3.6000							
9-Germany	49	07/04/98	96.4000	4.0200							
10-Germany	49	07/04/98	96.4000	4.0200							
11-Germany	34	07/04/98	99.9500	3.0000							
12-Germany	34	07/04/98	99.9500	3.0000							
13-Germany	34	07/04/98	99.9500	3.0000							
14-Germany	74	12/02/02	111.4444	4.3000							
15-Germany	49	05/19/03	104.5957	4.3000							
16-Germany	49	07/04/07	119.51	4.1700							
17-Germany	74	07/04/07	116.7698	4.1700							
18-Truthand	74	07/04/07	116.7698	4.1700							
20-Germany	34	07/04/07	116.7698	4.1700							
21-Germany	34	07/04/07	116.7698	4.1700							
22-Germany	34	07/04/07	116.7698	4.1700							
23-Germany	34	07/04/07	116.7698	4.1700							
24-Germany	34	07/04/07	116.7698	4.1700	</td						

Privacy Issues Prompt Change to Windows

Microsoft to Remove Identifying Numbers

By John Markoff
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — Microsoft Corp. has moved to defuse a potentially explosive privacy issue by saying it will modify a feature of its Windows 98 operating system that has been quietly used to create a vast database of personal information about computer users.

In a decision announced Saturday, Microsoft in effect conceded that the feature, a unique identifying number used by Windows and a handful of other Microsoft products, had the potential to be far more invasive than a malleable serial number in Intel Corp.'s new Pentium III computer chip that has privacy advocates up in arms.

The difference is that the Windows number is tied to an individual's name, to identifying numbers on the hardware

in the user's computer and even to documents that the user creates.

The combination of the Windows number with all these data, the privacy advocates said, could result in the ability to track a user and the documents he created across vast computer networks.

Hackers could compromise the resulting database, or subversives might allow authorities to gain access to information that would otherwise remain private and unavailable. Privacy advocates fear that availability will lead to abuses.

"We're definitely sensitive to any privacy concerns," said Robert Bennett, the Microsoft product manager for Windows. "The software was not supposed to send this information unless the computer user checked a specific option."

Mr. Bennett said the option to collect the information had been added to the software so that Microsoft support employees would be able to help users diagnose problems with their computers more accurately. He said the software giant had never intended to use the data for marketing purposes.

Microsoft said it would take the steps after a computer programmer in Massachusetts discovered the numbers attached to documents that he had created. The programmer, Robert Smith, told Microsoft that he believed the practice created a potential threat to privacy.

Mr. Bennett said Microsoft would alter the way the registration program works in the next maintenance release of Windows 98. He said the company's technicians would look through its databases and expunge information that had already been collected as a result of earlier versions.

The company is also exploring the possibility of creating a free utility program that would make it possible for Windows users to delete the serial number from a small database in the part of Windows known as the registry, where it is now collected.

Mr. Smith, who is president of Phar Lap Software Inc., a software tools development company, contacted Microsoft last week after discovering that the Microsoft Office business software was creating unique numbers identifying his personal computer and embedding them in spreadsheet and word-processing documents.

"Mr. Smith noticed that the hardware identifier was being sent to Microsoft, even when he instructed the registration program not to do it. The discovery brought to light what Mr. Bennett contend was a programming error."

Microsoft officials said last week that they were using the number in the company's software in an effort to find a

Piracy Verdict In China Goes To Microsoft

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BEIJING — Microsoft Corp. has won its first court case in China against illegal copiers of its products, in what a state-run newspaper Sunday called a landmark verdict against rampant software piracy in the country.

A Beijing intermediate court awarded damages of about 800,000 yuan (\$97,000) to the U.S.-based software maker after finding that two Chinese companies had pirated Microsoft products, the China Daily reported, quoting unidentified court sources.

According to the verdict, Beijing Seastar Science & Technology Development Co. installed Microsoft's Windows 95 and Office 97 on its computers line without Microsoft's approval. In addition, Beijing Min'An Investment Consulting Co. failed to get authorization before installing Microsoft's animation software Softimage.

"The court victory has greatly enhanced our confidence for China to wall off the pirate software in the industry," the paper quoted Tom Robertson, an attorney for Microsoft, as saying.

U.S. software companies say that illegal copying of their

See SUIT, Page 19

See MICROSOFT, Page 19

Chinese Deficit to Grow 57% To Deal With Social Problems

Reuters

BEIJING — China must massively increase its budget deficit if it is to keep the economy growing fast enough to deal with mounting social problems, Finance Minister Xiang Huacheng has told the annual session of the National People's Congress.

Mr. Xiang said Saturday that the deficit would rise 57 percent to a record 150.3 billion yuan (\$18.6 billion) as the government pours money into infrastructure in an effort to hit its target of 7 percent growth.

"If we do not continue to adopt these measures," he said, "it will be hard to increase domestic demand, and economic restructuring will be hampered."

"It will be difficult to maintain steady growth of the national economy, and the problem of unemployment will become outstanding," Mr. Xiang added. "Revenue will drop, and we will be in financial straits."

The economy grew 7.8 percent last year, thanks to heavy spending on infrastructure.

While such growth might look excellent amid the Asian crisis, Beijing has much to worry about as it struggles toward a market economy, including the restructuring of a floundering state sector, rising unemployment, and social unrest linked to a reduction in social services. Export growth is flagging, foreign investment is slowing and domestic consumption is flat.

"This year, we still face a grim situ-

ation," Deputy Prime Minister Wu Bangguo told delegates. "The impact of the Asian financial crisis on China may increase, the export sector is likely to face more difficulties and pressures from unemployment could become more serious."

The budget calls for a 14.7 percent rise in expenditures, to 738.9 billion yuan, this year and a 7.3 percent increase in revenue, to 586.6 billion yuan.

The deficit will amount to just 1.7 percent of gross domestic product, but a prominent economist said China could not rely on government spending forever and urged Beijing to spur consumer spending and allow small companies to play a greater role.

"This year we cannot let public finance continue to play this main role," said Wu Jinglian of the Development Research Center, which is under the State Council, or cabinet.

"If we do so, its effectiveness will decrease," he told reporters. "From a long-term perspective, it will bring problems."

The top state planner, Zeng Peiyang, said that meeting the 7 percent growth goal this year would be tough.

"We have the capacity to reach this target, but we will have to work very, very hard to attain it," he said.

Mr. Zeng singled out reforms of the country's banking system as a key task for this year, saying that Beijing should gradually establish asset management companies to clear bad loans.

CURRENCY RATES

March 5 Other Dollar Values

	\$	£	SF	Yen	CS	Dane	Greek	Swede	Austrian	Peru	Currency	Peru	Currency	Peru	Currency	Peru	Currency
London (1)	1,6097	—	2,3617	196,812	2,4395	11,0228	477,35	13,25	1,8597	1,8597	Hung. forint	325,66	N. Zealand \$	1,9221	S. Africa rand	40,24	
New York (2)	1,6057	1,6855	122,75	1,5192	6,854	267,21	8,243	2,04	1,8597	1,8597	India rupee	42,515	N. Korea	7,9155	S. Afric. rand	6,1785	
Tokyo	12,35	198,46	83,84	80,99	17,94	1,62	1,62	2,04	1,8597	1,8597	Ind. rupee	870,00	Port. peso	58,85	S. Korea won	1,341,50	
Toronto	1,5205	2,4412	1,0344	1,2405	—	0,2214	0,5115	0,1839	1,8597	1,8597	Irish shill.	4,044	Peru. peso	37,115	Taiwan \$	31,18	
Zurich	1,4685	2,2623	—	1,2004	0,9683	21,225	0,4949	0,1783	1,8597	1,8597	Portug. real	22,43	Peru. peso	29,21	UAE dirham	3,6726	
One euro	1,0834	0,6737	1,5912	1,2319	1,6489	7,4324	321,95	8,9355	1,8597	1,8597	Swiss franc	2,30	UAE dirham	37,740	UAE dirham	3,6726	
One SDR	1,3537	0,841	1,9824	1,65,625	2,065	9,2627	401,41	11,1888	1,8597	1,8597	Singapore \$	9,275	Singapore \$	1,2795	Venez. boliv.	57,52	

Interest rates exclude commissions.

1. To buy one pound is: To buy one dollar. *Per 100 N.G.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.

SDR: Special drawing rights of the IMF.

Sources: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); Banque de France (Paris); IMF (SDR). Other data from Reuters.

Euro Values

Fixed rates of the ECU member currencies, for one euro.

Austria: 1,34605

Belgium: 1,32579

France: 1,35435

French franc: 6,59567

Germany: 1,95883

Spain: 1,64365

Switzerland: 1,60717

United Kingdom: 1,70137

United States: 1,62579

Portug. escudo: 2,00428

Spanish peseta: 1,64365

Swiss franc: 1,64365

Yugoslavia: 1,64365

Yuan: 1,64365

Yuan:

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

**Consolidated prices for all shares traded
during week ended Friday, March 05**

Continued on Page 21

مكذا من الأصل

INTERNATIONAL INVESTING

Bourses Broaden Cooperation

London and Frankfurt to Publish Response to New York

Bloomberg News

PARIS — The London and Frankfurt stock exchanges will publish proposals in the next few days on bringing their regulations, trading hours and indexes into line with each other to create a common market for Europe's largest companies, representatives of the exchanges said over the weekend.

Their plans for a common trading system in Europe became more urgent when the New York Stock Exchange said Feb. 23 that it might extend trading hours to between 5 A.M. and midnight as it competes head-on with markets in Europe and Asia.

"The threat from the U.S. is going to speed up the negotiations in Europe," said Philippe Desummont, a fund manager at Group Ecotain in Paris.

The document from the London and Frankfurt exchanges will set out the exchanges' proposal to harmonize their rules. If all goes well, negotiations will then begin on the final stage, the creation of a common company that, after 2000, will own and operate a pan-European stock exchange for the 300 European biggest stocks.

That may not be possible unless other exchanges join soon. The London and Frankfurt exchanges are already in talks with six of Europe's largest stock exchanges — Paris, Zurich, Milan, Madrid, Amsterdam and Brussels.

The Paris exchange has said it wants to join the new system, though it reacted with indignation to moves by London and Frankfurt

in July and talked of setting up a rival system. In November it shifted in favor of a consensus, inviting nine European exchanges, including London and Frankfurt, to Paris to begin negotiations.

"It's essential for Paris to join this alliance as soon as possible so it can shape the end product," Mr. Desummont said.

In January, Paris agreed with the Swiss Stock Exchange to allow cross membership and to give market participants access to both exchanges on the same screen.

"The agreement with Zurich is not in opposition to London and Frankfurt," said Olivier Allou, spokesman for the Paris Bourse, "but is another step toward the goal of a pan-European system."

The London exchange said Feb. 28 it would propose opening an hour earlier each day, at 8 A.M. instead of 9 A.M., while Frankfurt would shift its opening half an hour later to match the London opening. Frankfurt will also close half an hour later than it does now to bring its close into line with the end of London trading, at 4:30 P.M. London time.

The Stockholm Stock Exchange is considering extending its trading hours to open with Frankfurt at the new time, 9 A.M. (8 A.M. London time), and stay open until U.S. markets close, as it tries to take back trade in benchmark stocks, such as Ericsson AB, lost to the United States in recent years, the newspaper *Finansinsidan* reported. That would almost double the Stockholm exchange's trading hours, which now run from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Profit Slump Cuts Salaries Of Merrill Lynch's Bosses

By Joseph Kahn

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The rising tide of executive pay did not lift all boats on Wall Street last year, with the top bosses at Merrill Lynch & Co. taking pay cuts to reflect the firm's profit slump.

David Komansky, chairman and chief executive, saw his total pay drop by 10.8 percent, to \$9.9 million from \$11.1 million in 1997. Total compensation for Herbert Allison Jr., chief operating officer, dropped by a similar percentage, to \$7.87 million from \$8.82 million.

The smaller paychecks came after Merrill posted weak results for 1998. The securities firm suffered losses on its bond holdings after Russia defaulted on its debt in August, prompting a temporary but deep plunge. Merrill cut 3,400 jobs, many of them in its fixed-income division. Most bankers at the firm received flat or reduced bonuses.

"It makes very clear to investors as well as employees that Komansky puts his money where his mouth is," said Joan Zimmerman, a vice president at GZ Stephens Inc., an executive search firm. "When the firm's profits are down, people expect senior executives to feel the heat of it."

The top bosses had little choice but to take a hit this year, said one Merrill banker who asked to remain anonymous. The firm frequently says employee compensation will be tightly linked to performance and profit, and the people at the top can hardly exempt themselves, he said.

"There would have been a revolt around here if they paid themselves more," he said. "This is not a year anyone was thrilled about."

Other Wall Street executives did better. Lehman Brothers paid its chairman, Richard Fuld, \$13.3 million, an increase of 18 percent from 1997. Philip Purcell, chairman and chief executive of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., took home total pay of \$31 million, including an exceptional options grant. His annual pay increased about 8 percent.

Profit at both Lehman and Morgan rose by about 15 percent last year.

Departure of Brazil Oil Chief May Open Privatization Door

Reuters

RIO DE JANEIRO — The resignation of the head of the Brazilian state-controlled oil company, Petrobras, is a signal that the cash-strapped government is ready to sell off a chunk of the huge, secretive company, analysts said.

A foreign oil company official said: "Petrobras has been held back by the current management. A change would be welcomed. It would probably mean they were looking to sell at least a part of it."

Government officials have insisted they are not planning a controversial privatization of the company, although there are plans to reduce the state's stake to 50 percent plus 1 share.

For years Petrobras was reluctant to share information. Under Mr. Remo's tenure, the company actively started countering publicity and trimming costs to get in shape for competition from big foreign oil concerns.

Recently, Petrobras has been scrambling to forge partnerships to meet deadlines on exploration and production imposed by the new regulator.

Separately, International Monetary Fund spokesman said he expected to be able to announce Monday a new credit line for Brazil, after weeks of talks on how to save Latin America's powerhouse economy from a deep currency crisis.

Shailendra Anjaria said he expected IMF management to recommend Brazil receive a second payment in a \$4.5 billion package of loan guarantees.

MARKETS: Global Pressures

Continued from Page 1

Stock Exchange. "The old methods of exchanging stocks just no longer meet the needs of the investing community."

That community has undergone drastic change in recent years.

Unprecedented numbers of Americans are trading stocks, directly and through mutual funds, and pension plans. Moreover, they have easier access to the markets than ever before, thanks to low-cost on-line brokerage accounts, Internet investing sites and the new trading networks. Finally, they and investors elsewhere in the world are more readily investing money in companies and markets far from their homelands.

All of this has touched off a stunning acceleration in the competition among the institutions that provide stock-trading services, said Richard Grasso, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange.

The exchange and Nasdaq, which are not-for-profit associations accustomed to competing only with one another, now face a plethora of new private trading networks, so-called electronic communications networks.

The owners of these trading services aim to profit by providing an electronic meeting place where stocks can be traded and by collecting commissions on each trade.

In addition, the New York exchange, a U.S. leader in international stock trading, is anticipating a foreign threat. Now that Europe has a single currency, a pan-European stock exchange may soon emerge, perhaps this year.

To be sure, this competition is driving down the commissions that investors pay to trade.

"Competition can create confusion, but on balance, the individual investor is being empowered," said Hans Sall, a finance professor at Vanderbilt University.

But that confusion is unsettling, many market participants said.

"The technology is the tail wagging the dog," said Scott Saber, a former under and senior vice president at VIE Systems Inc., an institutional software provider. "No one is saying, 'Is this the best way? How will this impact the market?' They just say, 'We can do this and make money.'"

Mr. Grasso said he expected to report to the board by the end of June his opinion on whether the New York Stock Exchange should build or buy its own electronic network for trading stocks not listed on the exchange.

But if the Big Board readily trades stocks of companies that have not met its tough listing standards, it may have more difficulty enforcing those rules, Mr. Coffee said.

Some of those standards provide important protections for U.S. investors, he added. For example, the New York exchange requires listed companies to have wholly independent audit committees and a majority of independent directors — neither of which is required under federal securities laws.

Mr. Grasso insisted that protecting the standards and reputation of the exchange would be paramount as his board considered adding a second trading service.

The boom in electronic communications networks was actually encouraged by rule changes intended to improve the Nasdaq market.

Those changes allowed electronic communications



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Meanwhile, what happens if stock prices plunge, spreading panic among the ranks of newly empowered investors before the marketplace has finished inventing itself?

Most likely, market leaders say, investors will stampede back to the time-tested institutions — the Big Board and Nasdaq.

If there's a downturn, Mr. Zarb said, "the trading comes back to us."

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Slowdown Is Predicted For Britain

But It Is Unlikely to Last, Upbeat IMF Report Says

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The International Monetary Fund on Sunday predicted a sharp downturn in British economic growth this year and said there was room for further cuts in British interest rates.

But an upbeat IMF review of the British economy also said that the slowdown was not likely to last. Britain's tax position was solid, monetary targets were working well and the independence of the Bank of England made policy more credible, it said.

"Directors commended the authorities for the United Kingdom's impressive economic performance in recent years and their skillful management of the economy," said the report, summarizing a March 3 review.

"Directors agreed that slower growth was in the offing, following a number of years of good growth performance."

"With both public and private sector fundamentals quite strong and structural policies oriented toward strengthening incentives, the slowdown should be short-lived," the report added.

The IMF said it expected Britain's gross domestic product to increase 0.8 percent this year, down from 2.5 percent in 1998 and 3.5 percent in 1997. Inflation, excluding mortgage interest payments, would rise to 5 percent from 4.7 percent in 1998.

"The balance of risks remains largely on the downside, relating in particular to uncertainties about the global economic outlook," the IMF said.

"Directors saw scope for further monetary easing to avoid an excessive weakening of economic activity," it added.

Britain has already cut interest rates five times in an effort to stimulate its slowing economy, although the Bank of England left rates unchanged at 5.5 percent at its last meeting, which took place Wednesday.

The IMF said Britain's monetary targets had led to "timely and judicious" changes in British interest rates. "Several directors noted the important role the operational independence granted to the Bank of England had played in enhancing policy credibility," the report said.

The IMF makes a review of the economies of each of its 182 member countries every year. (Reuters, AFP)

Schroeder Shrugs Off Effect of Pay Raises on Job Talks

Reuters

BONN — Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said Sunday that recent higher-than-expected pay increases for public sector and engineering workers should not jeopardize his government-sponsored job creation plan.

Mr. Schroeder said the Alliance for Jobs project, which brings employers and unions together to try to find a solution to reduce Germany's chronic unemployment, was a long-term plan and should not be endangered by short-term goals.

In an interview with Deutschlandfunk radio Sunday, the chancellor criticized employers for threatening to withdraw from the Alliance for Jobs talks after the new labor contracts.

MICROSOFT: Identifying Number in Windows to Be Removed

Continued from Page 15

unique identifier to keep components from colliding with one another in an increasingly complex world of networked computers.

But Mr. Smith said the number had created a "digital fingerprint" that could be used to match a document created by word-processing or spreadsheet programs with a particular computer.

On Thursday, after further studying the "registration wizard" — the software module that enables customers to register their copies of the Windows 98 operating system for support and updates — Mr. Smith discovered that the number, known as Globally Unique Identifier, was being transmitted to Microsoft as part of a list of registration information that generally includes the owner's name, address, phone number, certain other demographic information and details about what hardware and software are on or attached to the user's computer.

"Microsoft never asked me if it was O.K. to send in this number, and they never said it was being sent," Mr. Smith said. "They are apparently building a database that relates Ethernet adapter addresses to personal information."

Ethernet adapters are cards inserted in a computer that enable it to connect to high-speed networks within corpora-

tions, and from there out to the Internet.

The controversy erupted just weeks after Intel agreed to change a small software utility that came with the new Pentium III so that a serial number on the chip would be inactive unless the computer user switched it on.

Privacy activists have been attacking both companies, arguing that identification numbers can be easily misused to permit the creation of dossiers of personal information about individuals or electronic monitoring systems that track a computer user's behavior in cyberspace.

The issue has sparked a heated debate over the fundamental technology of modern computer networks and software systems, which routinely employ serial numbers to identify individual computers and software modules known as "objects" that can be shared by a number of programs.

But the Intel number identified only a computer. The Windows number identifies a person. And because the Windows number created a potential linkage between individuals and confidential documents they created, privacy advocates said they were outraged.

"I think this is horrendous," said Jason Catlett, president of Jankbusters, a consumer privacy organization.

"They're tattooing a number into each file. Think of the implications. If

some whistle-blower sends a file, it can be traced back to the person himself. It's an extremely dangerous feature. Why did they do it?"

Privacy groups have long warned about the dangers of centralized information and electronic monitoring.

The privacy community has been discussing the implications of the Intel Pentium III serial number with Intel, and while some privacy advocates acknowledge that the number can play an important role in protecting both privacy and security, others have called for a boycott of Intel, arguing that the likelihood of misuse of the number is extreme.

Beyond the fear of a centralized Big Brother, they add that the rise of the Internet has made it possible for individual companies to freely use detailed personal information for commercial ends.

"The problem is the absence of legal rules that limit the collection and use of personal information," said Marc Rotenberg, director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington.

"It's clear to me that large Internet companies such as Microsoft, AOL and Netscape will try to squeeze out privacy," he added, referring to America Online Inc. and the browser maker Netscape Communications Corp.

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New 3M Plant In Singapore

Bloomberg News

SINGAPORE — Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co. opened a plant in Singapore on Sunday valued at 400 million dollars (\$231.5 million).

The company said its new factory would make microflex, or circuits that connect semiconductor chips.

In four years, the plant is expected to produce half the U.S.-based company's microflex, with the rest being made in Japanese and U.S. factories.

Microflex accounted for between 1 percent and 3 percent of 3M's sales of \$15.02 billion last year.

The investment is a shot in the arm for Singapore, which needs to create jobs after it slid last year into its first recession in 13 years.

ARNO. CALOR. ROWENTA. SEB. TEFAL

A setback that does not impact our long-term strategy

Statement of income (in millions of units)	1998 FRF	1998 €	1997 €
Sales	11,569	1,763.7	1,806.0
Operating income	754	114.9	212.2
Net financial expenses	(111)	(16.9)	(14.8)
Operating income after financial expenses	643	98.0	198.4
Restructuring charges	(266)	(40.5)	(8.1)
Incentive bonus and profit-sharing schemes	(93)	(14.2)	(36.9)
Other charges	(2)	(0.4)	(3.6)
Amortization of trademark and goodwill	(66)	(10.0)	(4.8)
Income before income taxes	216	32.9	145.0
Income taxes	(165)	(25.1)	(34.9)
Minority interests	1	0.1	(10.6)
Net income of SEB SA	52	7.9	79.5
Earnings per share (in francs / euro)	3.41	0.52	5.13
Net income + allowance for depreciation	666	100.0	154.3

Chairman's message to shareholders

For Groupe SEB, 1998 was a year of important contrasts. For the first time in our history, our sales declined, and our earnings were negatively affected by the economic crises in Asia, Russia and Latin America. At the same time, we took a decisive step towards meeting the objectives in our Ambition 2000 plan to globalize our business, by gaining control of Arno, Brazil's leading electrical appliance manufacturer, and Volmo, the market leader in the Andes Pact nations. With these acquisitions, your Group now has an exceptional industrial and marketing presence in all of Latin America.

Today, we have manufacturing and marketing bases in all of the world's major markets and our sales are more or less evenly spread among France, other European countries, the Americas and the rest of the world.

Although the setback in 1998 was severe, it will in no way jeopardize our future. What is more, it does not change the fundamentals of our strategy to globalize our major product families. We will continue to build on the foundation laid down in the last few years.

The very sudden decline in business in 1998 did, however, lead us to adjust our strategy. We booked nearly € 69 million (FRF 450 million) in exceptional items, which led to operating income of € 115 million (FRF 754 million) and net income of € 8 million (FRF 52 million). All of these figures are to line with my announcement at the end of 1998.

We responded quickly to the new business situation worldwide so as to be in a position to meet our long-term objectives. This is the goal behind the two-year Rebond 2000 plan, which covers four main areas:

- We have focused our research resources and our industrial and advertising spending on a smaller number of products that correspond to our major strengths and core businesses.
- We have enhanced our opportunities for growth by opening new subsidiaries or offices in Australia and South Africa and by gaining greater control over our operations in China.
- We are adjusting our manufacturing resources in France, Colombia and China.
- Lastly, we are adapting our investments to take account of market trends and we are speeding organizational change based on a shared vision of a company managed by product lines and by markets, with a common support structure and information system.

Groupe SEB remains strong, and it can count on solid fundamentals.

- We have a unified core shareholder base that consolidated further in 1998 to ensure the stability and sustainability of our long-term strategy.

We have extremely well known international brands. Every second, four consumers around the world choose a Groupe SEB product.

- Our capacity for innovation is intact, as can be seen in the large number of new and major products introduced in the first quarter of 1999.

We control a worldwide distribution network, which is of crucial importance for building our future growth and profits.

- Aside from our traditional base in France and Germany, we have manufacturing resources in all the major world markets, including the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Russia and China.

Although our financial resources were reduced by some € 410 million (FRF 2.7 billion) spent on investments and acquisitions over the past two years, they are still very strong and will allow us to finance our anticipated development.

Business conditions were difficult in 1998. The global outlook for 1999 varies greatly from country to country, and our sales expressed in euro will decline again due to the halt in Russian demand and the devaluation of the ruble.

We are currently overcoming the difficulties encountered last year. Backed by your confidence and the commitment of all our team members, who are implementing the numerous Rebond projects, I am convinced that in two years' time we will return to a level of sales and earnings more in keeping with our past performance.

With this outlook in mind, the Board of Directors will propose at the Shareholders' Meeting to maintain the dividend.

Jacques Gairard

The Annual Shareholders' Meeting will be held on May 3, 1999 at 2:30 p.m. at Pavillon Gabriel, 5 Avenue Gabriel - 75008 Paris.

First quarter sales announcement April 12, 1999

Internet: <http://www.groupeseb.com> - <http://www.prlse.com>

Bargain-Hunting? Try U.S. Nuclear Plants

By Agis Salpukas
New York Times Service

FOR SALE: Five buildings on 1,600 acres of woodland. Cape Cod Bay vu. 26 years old. Original owner: Good condition.

PLYMOUTH, Massachusetts — The property that was put on the market last summer was a nuclear plant — the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station here — and that alone might have made it a tough sell.

Nuclear energy has been very unpopular in the United States since the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island. And the opening of electricity markets in states like Massachusetts adds to the financial risks of running a nuclear plant. The costs of plant shutdowns, for instance, can no longer be passed along, with the blessing of regulators, to customers. And the home of Pilgrim has a monopoly.

For these reasons, Pilgrim's owner, Boston Edison Co., had said that if a buyer could not be found, the plant would be shut down and decommissioned sooner rather than later. For Plymouth, a town of nearly 50,000, and the home of Plymouth Rock, the loss of its biggest employer would have been a huge blow.

So the 670 managers and employees of the Pilgrim plant were understandably nervous when teams of executives from other utility companies toured the plant to see if they wanted to make a bid. The floors and walls of the plant glistened; the telephones were even polished by hand.

While the offers did not exactly pour in, two bids were eventually made for the plant. Entergy Corp., a huge utility based in New Orleans, was the winner with a \$80 million bid. It was only the second sale of a nuclear plant in the United States.

"It is a buyers' market, but the fact that there is a market at all in nuclear plants is a sign of how deregulation is reshaping the U.S. power industry. Entergy, along with companies like

Peco Energy Co. and Dominion Resources Inc. are in the forefront of a group of bargain-basement shoppers who see remaining value in nuclear energy. Instead of spending hundreds of millions of dollars or more to build a new power plant capable of generating the same amount of electricity, they are able to buy older nuclear plants for tens of millions — a mere fraction of their book value. (The last reactor to be built in the United States was ordered in 1973.)

These companies, which own more than one nuclear plant, say they have developed the skill and size to run nuclear plants more efficiently.

The possibility of costly operating shutdowns does not frighten them, they say, because they will have the needed expertise, personnel and equipment should a problem arise.

And the price is so cheap that it pays to take on the generally higher costs of operating nuclear power plants, compared with that of running other electricity sources.

Nuclear plants in newly open markets in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Jersey are particularly attractive. Under deregulation, a number of the utilities in those states are shrinking to become transmission companies.

They will concentrate on the delivery of electricity and on providing service to business and residential customers. Utilities like



Employees of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant, who helped sell it, gathered in front of the facility in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Consolidated Ediso Co. of New York, for example, will buy power at the lowest price from pools where companies like Entergy, Dominion and Peco will sell power.

The buyers of nuclear plants contend they can thrive in such open markets. When the plants are run well, they can compete on price with low-cost plants that run on hydropower, coal and natural gas. And local nuclear plants are particularly attractive compared with power plants outside the region, which face more expensive transmission costs.

"People who are buying the nuclear plants are very smart," said Robert Rubin, a utility analyst with Bear, Stearns & Co. Despite the image of nuclear power as an industry with no future, he said, it has many years of life yet.

Mr. Rubin estimates 25 to 30 plants will soon change hands or be shut down.

SHORT COVER

U.S. MUTUAL FUNDS

**Figures as of close
of trading Friday, March 25**

of trading Friday, March 05

This table shows the performance of Newstar-listed mutual funds through Friday and includes the top 4,000 funds in terms of assets. There are roughly 6,150 funds currently listed on Nasdaq.

Group names are shown in bold face, with individual fund names in each group indicated below. Funds that are not part of a group are not indicated.

NAV is the net asset value, i.e. the portfolio value divided by the number of shares outstanding, as recorded by the fund manager on the Nasdaq.

reported by the fund through Nasdaq. NAV excludes all sales or redemption charges. Change shows the variation from the previous Friday.

Name field footnotes : c - available only through a contractual plan; n - no front-end load or contingent deferred sales load; p - fund assets are used to pay distribution costs; r - redemption fees for contingent deferred sales load may apply; t - focuses on p and assets.

Price field footnotes : : - ex capital gains distribution; (1 - previous day's quotation; a - stock dividend; m - stock split; r - rights issue; s - stock bonus; v - stock split and rights issue; x - stock split and stock bonus; z - stock split and stock dividend).

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

(Continued)

DENNIS THE MENACE

PEANUTS



SOMETIMES I LIE AWAKE AT NIGHT, AND I ASK, "IS LIFE A MULTIPLE CHOICE TEST OR IS IT A TRUE OR FALSE TEST?"



THEN A VOICE COMES TO ME OUT OF THE DARK, AND SAYS, "WE HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT LIFE IS A THOUSAND WORD ESSAY"



Page 381

JUMBO
Universitätsbibliothek Bonn



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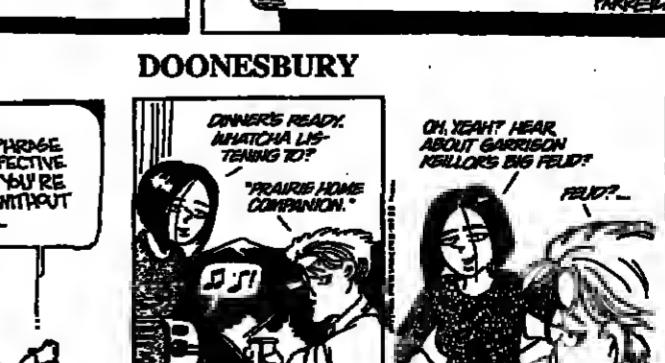
OTTO'S BETTER
AT SNIFFING
OUT SOMEONE
WHO'LL DO IT
FOR HIM

SNIFF!
GRRR

HOT



NON SEQUITUR



Internet address:
<http://www.iht.com>

HOW'D THE MEETING GO?

I WAS RAZOR-SHARP AND
MY MIND WAS CLICKING
ON ALL CYLINDERS



SPORTS

Gebrselassie And Szabo a Dynamic Duo At World Meet

The Associated Press

MAEBASHI, Japan — Haile Gebrselassie, the diminutive Ethiopian with the million-dollar smile and bankroll to match, and Gabriela Szabo, the resilient Romanian, each completed double-bet victories Sunday.

Gebrselassie captured the men's 4,500-meter race at the World Track Indoor Championships, having won the

INDOOR ATHLETICS

3,000 meters Friday, while Szabo took the women's 3,000 meters, having triumphed in the 1,500 meters Saturday.

It was the first time at the championships that one man and one woman had swept those races.

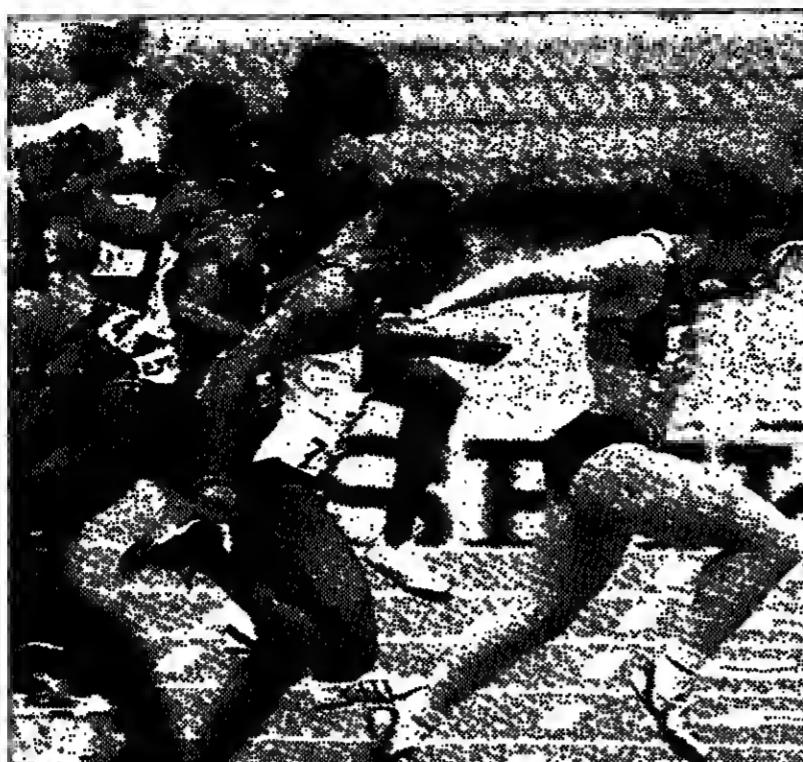
Gebrselassie, perhaps the best and most versatile distance runner since Paavo Nurmi of Finland, capped his distance double by winning the 1,500 meters in 3 minutes, 33.77 seconds, a meet record, in a heated duel with Levan Rotich of Kenya.

Szabo finished off her double triumph by winning the 3,000 meters in 8:36.42, passing Zafra Ouazif of Morocco with a stinging last lap.

Gebrselassie never had won a major title in the 1,500, but when the heats of the 3,000 were canceled because of a lack of competitors, Gebrselassie knew his chances had improved immensely.

He won the 3,000 Friday in 7:53.57, then his 1,500 semifinal Saturday and completed the sweep Sunday. The double wasn't quite as dramatic as Nurmi's victories in the 1,500 meters and 5,000 meters about 75 minutes apart at the 1924 Olympics in Paris, but it added to Gebrselassie's impressive array of titles.

He has won the world outdoor 10,000-meters title three times, the world indoor 3,000 twice and the Olympic 10,000 meters once. He holds the world outdoor records in the 5,000 meters and 10,000 meters, and is unbeaten in the 10,000



Tony Gentile/Associated Press/Press-Pix

Ekaterini Thanou of Greece winning the women's 60-meter dash in Maebashi, Japan. Gail Devers of the United States, center, was second.

since June 1993. And he's only 25.

Szabo is even younger, at 23, and is making rapid strides to become the queen of women's distance runners. She also had to run several races at the championships: the heats of the 1,500 on Friday, the 1,500 final on Saturday (winning in a meet record of 4:03.23) and the 3,000 Sunday, which she won for the third consecutive year.

The double victories overshadowed the two world records set at the championships, by the 4-by-400-meter relay team of the United States in the men's race, and by Russia in the women's event. Also, there were major upsets in the men's and women's 800-meter events and a dramatic victory by the Cuban long jumper, Ivan Pedroso.

Milt Campbell led the U.S. 1,600-meter relay team to victory in 3:02.83, overtaking Robert Mackowiak of Poland down the final straightaway.

The Russian women's team of Tatjana Chebykina, Svetlana Czarchenko, Olga Kotyayeva and Natalya Nazarenko clinched the 4x400 relay title.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

EXHIBITION BASEBALL

Toronto 8, New York Yankees (so) 1
Kansas City 9, Cleveland (so) 3
Philadelphia 7, Cleveland (so) 6
Florida 8, Boston 10, 10 innings
Florida 8, Boston 1, 10
Detroit 6, Pittsburgh 6
St. Louis 2, Atlanta 4
Los Angeles 7, St. Louis 4
Dallas 7, Atlanta 10, 10
Seattle 8, Chicago 2
Arizona 10, Chicago White Sox 6
Milwaukee (so) 3, San Francisco 4
San Diego 10, Atlanta 3, 10 innings
Philadelphia 7, Atlanta 10, 10
Boston 4, Boston College 2, 10
Houston 7, Florida 1
Arizona 6, Colorado 1

SATURDAY RESULTS

Cleveland 2, Detroit 1
Kansas City 9, New York Yankees (so) 1
Milwaukee 7, Atlanta 10
Atlanta 7, Tampa Bay 5
Philadelphia 7, Tampa 5
Cincinnati 4, Detroit 4
Milwaukee 5, St. Louis 3
Houston 7, Florida 1
New York Mets 7, Los Angeles 3
Edition 8, New York Yankees (so) 4
Cincinnati 7, Atlanta 10
Milwaukee 12, Seattle 11
Arizona 11, Chicago White Sox 6
Milwaukee 15, San Francisco 4

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

ATLANTIC DIVISION
W 1 L 26 G 68
Detroit 14 4 778
Milwaukee 9 7 559 14
Atlanta 10 7 558 14
Philadelphia 7 6 525 3
New York 9 7 553 4
Boston 7 7 500 5
Washington 6 9 490 95
New Jersey 3 10 280 95

CENTRAL DIVISION
Indiana 11 5 498 1
Milwaukee 9 5 493 1
Detroit 10 7 558 14
Atlanta 7 6 525 3
Philadelphia 7 6 523 4
New York 9 7 553 4
Boston 7 7 500 5
Washington 6 9 490 95
New Jersey 3 10 280 95

WESTERN CONFERENCE

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SPORTS

Despite Scandal, Many IOC Delegates Remain Loyal to Samaranch

By William Drostkaik
Washington Post Service

BERLIN—Even as critics around the world clamor for his resignation, Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, still appears to enjoy strong support from IOC delegates—many chosen by Mr. Samaranch himself—who fear a vicious succession fight could destroy the Olympic movement.

But as the IOC prepares for an emergency session March 17 and 18 to deal with corruption charges that have implicated a fifth of its members, people involved in the Olympics worry that the close-knit IOC will refuse—or is unable—to take the kind of dramatic steps needed to restore the Games' luster.

In the wake of the scandal surrounding the Olympic bidding process, Mr. Samaranch has come under particular pressure from the United States.

Speaking privately, officials of the U.S. Olympic Committee said they have told Mr. Samaranch "in no uncertain terms" that he must step down soon. They said they spelled out the dangers for the Olympic movement if he stays on and if the IOC fails to adopt democratic

reforms to restore credibility among the public and corporate sponsors.

But inside the closed world of the IOC, where personal loyalty to Mr. Samaranch is strong, a far different dynamic is at work. The vast majority of delegates owe their positions to the Spaniard. Until the time of the scandal, Mr. Samaranch personally had selected 92 of the 114 IOC members.

Since the Salt Lake City scandal broke

recently four months ago, Mr. Samaranch

has rejected calls that he be held accountable and has brushed aside claims

that his fondness for exorbitant gifts during his 18-year tenure may have nurtured a climate of corruption in the IOC.

Interviews with more than a dozen IOC delegates suggest that Mr. Samaranch is likely to survive a vote of confidence at the meeting this month because he is seen as the only authority figure who can carry out reforms deemed necessary to restore credibility to the organization.

"The captain of our ship must remain at the controls until we get through the storm," said Richard Pound, an IOC vice president from Canada who is often mentioned as a leading candidate to succeed Mr. Samaranch. "When we

come out at the other end, then we can

decide on the future of our leadership. But it's premature to do so in the middle of a crisis."

Anita De Frantz, one of two American IOC members, said, "He rescued the Games from political boycotts and from bankruptcy. He brought women into the IOC and more female athletes into Olympic competition. We owe so much to him that I believe he deserves the chance to finish his term on a high note by leading the reform drive."

Mario Vazquez Rana, president of the Mexican Olympic Committee, said that while he viewed criticism of the IOC as "positive and necessary," he could not accept laying any blame on the man at the top.

"No IOC member has any motives to criticize Samaranch," he said. "Quite the contrary, I believe all see him with due respect and admiration as their leader, because of the way he has guided the destiny of the Olympic movement."

Although Mr. Samaranch is 78 and appears at times to be in failing health, the absence of an anointed successor is testament to the manner in which he has cut down potential rivals.

In 1995, Mr. Pound was poised to seize the leadership after winning praise for conducting negotiations that reaped

a fortune for the IOC in Olympic sponsorships and broadcasting rights. But when he sought to block Mr. Samaranch's effort to prolong his stay in office by extending the retirement age to 80, Mr. Pound found himself isolated by the rest of the IOC membership.

Angered by what he saw as Mr. Pound's unseemly bid for power, IOC sources said, Mr. Samaranch then shifted his patronage toward Kim Un Yong, a former deputy director of the South Korean intelligence agency during an era of brutal military dictators who was promoted to the IOC executive board after his stewardship of the 1988 Seoul Games. Mr. Kim rapidly built a solid bloc of supporters in Asia, Africa and Latin America that began to pose a formidable challenge to Mr. Pound's narrow base in Europe and North America.

In 1996, Mr. Kim nearly managed to shove Mr. Pound off the executive board by putting up a challenger—with Mr. Samaranch's blessing—for the Canadian's seat. Mr. Kim's candidate, Ashwini Kumar of India, who was regarded as little more than the South Korean's lackey, lost to Mr. Pound by only two votes.

But Mr. Kim stands accused of using

his influence to secure lucrative consulting jobs for his son and concert dates for his pianist daughter in the Salt Lake City scandal. Even if he escaped expulsion as the highest-ranking IOC member to become implicated in the scandal, Mr. Kim's chances of success were severely damaged.

Mr. Kim has angrily denied the bribery allegations and accused Mr. Pound of using his role as head of the IOC investigation to undercut Mr. Samaranch and sabotage Mr. Kim's candidacy.

"Such persistent attempts to smear both my reputation and the leadership of President Samaranch are political and designed to undermine the stability of his leadership, as well as to affect the succession of his presidency," Mr. Kim told reporters after the charges were made public.

Mr. Kim dismissed as "too risky" any possibility that Mr. Pound and other members of the commission would recommend his expulsion in the days before the IOC session is convened. "When the time comes, I will fight back," Mr. Kim said. "I have a lot of ammunition."

As for Mr. Pound, IOC sources said Mr. Samaranch may have handed him a poisoned chalice by appointing him to

review ethical misconduct of other members.

Other presidential candidates, all former Olympic athletes, are said to include Jacques Rogge, an orthopedic surgeon from Belgium and executive board member who heads the European Olympic committee; Kevan Gosper, an Australian executive board member who heads the IOC's press commission and has been active in preparing the Sydney Games, and Jean-Claude Killy, the French skier and businessman who carries a touch of celebrity glamour but also enough political guile to remain aloof from internal wrangling over the scandal.

Mr. Samaranch has staked the future of his presidency on a vote of confidence in a new formula for selecting the host city for the 2006 Winter Games, which must be approved by two-thirds of the IOC's 106 members.

Under the formula, IOC members will lose their cherished travel privileges to inspect candidate cities. Those visits became the proximate cause of the bribery scandal, as IOC members were showered with gifts that, in some cases, involved cash payments, scholarships and lucrative jobs for family members as a way of garnering their support.

Duke Routs Tar Heels to Capture ACC Championship

Compiled by Our Staff Photo Dispatch

Duke seized a piece of Atlantic Coast Conference history, and now awaits the NCAA tournament as a team in full command.

The No. 1 Blue Devils (32-1) routed No. 15 North Carolina, 96-73, in the conference championship game Sunday, completing an unbeaten run through the ACC regular season and postseason.

William Avery had 29 points and Elton Brand scored 24 for Duke (32-1), which won its 27th straight game and denied the Tar Heels (24-9) a chance at a third consecutive ACC title.

North Carolina had enjoyed good luck against Duke in previous ACC title games, going 6-2 against the Blue Devils. But Sunday's game in Charlotte, North Carolina, was another matter.

The Blue Devils shot 60 percent in the opening half—with their injured 3-point ace, Trajan Langdon, on the bench—to go up by 16 in the opening 20 minutes. The strong start by Duke came against a Tar Heels team seeking to avenge a 20-point rout by Duke eight days ago in the Smith Center.

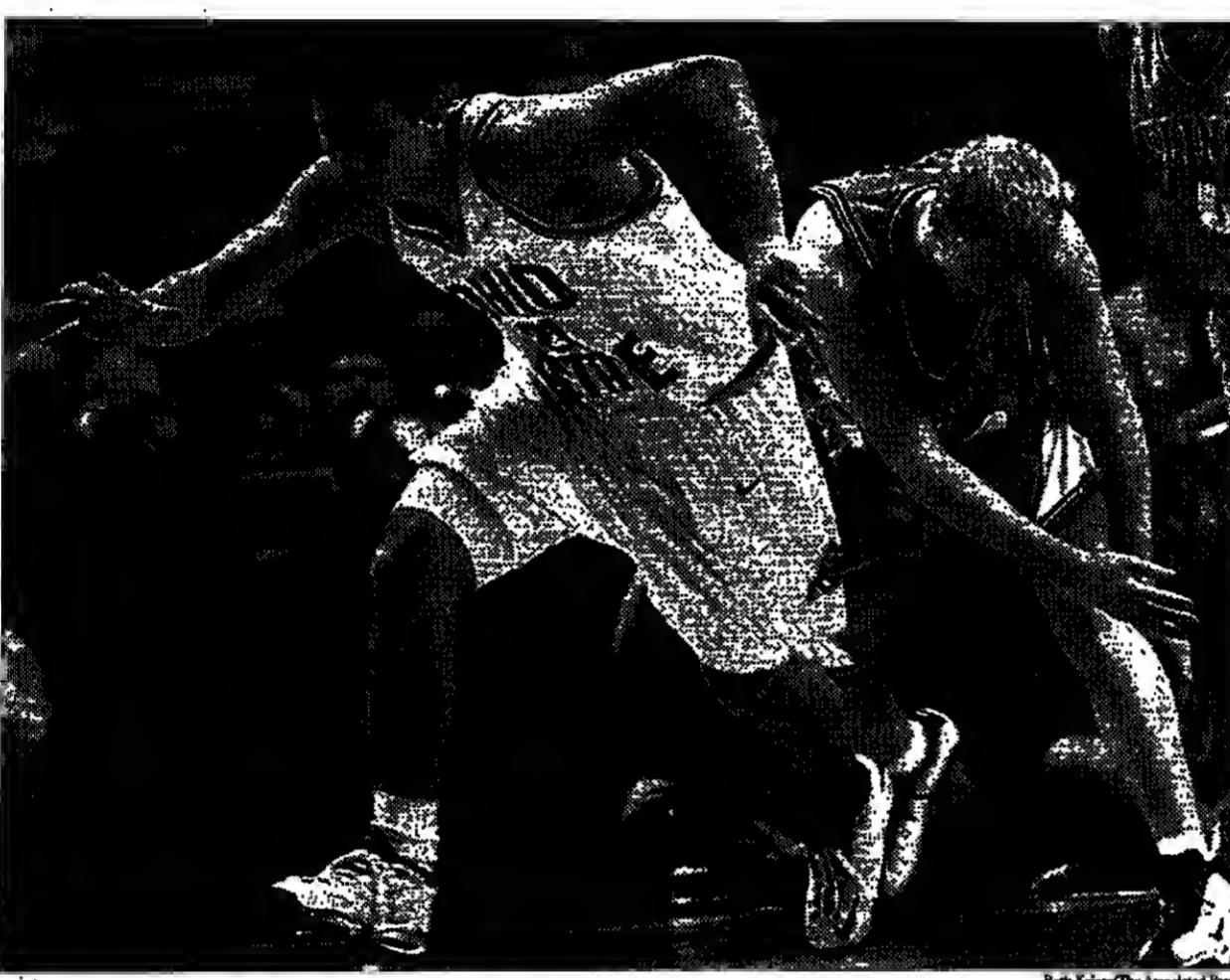
Duke's lead reached as many as 24 with a 10-0 run to start the second half as Brand scored on a shot in the lane and a dunk, and Avery sank a 24-foot 3-point shot.

But the Tar Heels had one more rally in them before falling to one of the more talented teams in ACC history. A 14-0 run by North Carolina got them back in the game, closing within nine with 10:28 left.

Duke, however, sensed a piece of ACC history and went for the kill.

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE In Atlanta, Scott Padgett scored 20 points and the No. 4 Kentucky Wildcats used a 16-0 spurt at the end of the first half and the beginning of the second to beat No. 22 Arkansas, 76-63, in the championship game of the Southeastern Conference tournament.

The Wildcats (25-8), who get the SEC's automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, won their third straight tour-



Slobodan Savovich of Ohio State pulling away from Lucas Johnson of Illinois in the first half in Chicago.

manent title and seventh in eight years—a remarkable streak that has included only one loss in 24 games. That came in the 1996 final against Mississippi State.

Arkansas, which joined the SEC for the 1991-92 season, has never won the tournament, losing twice to Kentucky in the finals.

The Razorbacks (22-10) jumped to a 19-6 lead less than five minutes into the game, only to see the defending national champions bounce back as they always seem to do at this time of year. Kentucky closed the first half with an 8-0 run to slice Arkansas' lead to 40-39. Padgett, the tournament MVP, hit a 3-pointer, and Heshima Evans scored the final four points, including a pair of free throws with five seconds remaining after drawing a charge from Karen Reid.

The Wildcats went ahead for good by scoring the first eight points of the second half. Padgett missed two shots

under the basket but kept working the boards, finally putting in his third attempt to put Kentucky ahead for the first time, 41-40.

BIG TEN Illinois, which entered the Big Ten tournament seeded 11th out of 11, pulled off its third straight upset to reach the title game.

The Illini (14-17) beat No. 11 Ohio State in Chicago, 79-77, on Saturday for its third straight victory over a ranked opponent in as many days. The Illini started Big Ten play 0-7 and did not win a conference game until late January before finishing 3-13.

Cory Bradford, a freshman, scored 17 points, hitting six free straight free throws in the final 1:19, as the Illini blew a late 11-point lead and survived a wild finish to beat the Buckeyes (23-8). Michael Reid scored 32 points, hitting 11 of 18 field goal attempts, to lead Ohio State.

Illinois faced Michigan State, which

is ranked No. 2, in the final. The Spartans beat No. 19 Wisconsin, 56-41, in the other semifinal.

MIAMI STATE Michigan State (28-4) trailed 18-8 in the first half, but fought back to tie the score at 22 at halftime and then held Wisconsin (22-9) scoreless for nearly 11 minutes either side of halftime.

BIG 12 In Kansas City, Oklahoma State held on to beat top-seeded Texas, 59-57, in the semifinals of the Big 12.

Adrian Peterson hit the front end of a one-and-one free throw to give the fifth-seeded Cowboys (22-6) a two-point lead with nine seconds to go.

Texas (19-12), the regular-season Big 12 champion and winner over Oklahoma State in 10 of their last 11 meetings, ruined itself with turnovers in the final 1:30 by Ivan Wagner and William Clay.

In the other semifinal, Jeff Boeheim scored six in the final 1:35 to help Kansas beat Kansas State, 69-58. (AP, NYT)

Huskies Win Big East By Trampling St. John's

The Associated Press

NEW YORK—Connecticut won its second straight Big East tournament title, thrashing 10th-ranked St. John's in Madison Square Garden, 82-63.

The victory brought the Huskies their third conference championship in four

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

years and their fourth of the 1990s. Connecticut also had the best regular-season conference record six times this decade.

Connecticut started the game with a 13-0 run that looked like an edited highlight film. After missing their first shot of the game, the Huskies made their next six—the first three by Richard Hamilton—while forcing three turnovers.

Only 2:42 had elapsed when St. John's (25-8), trailing 13-0, called a timeout.

Hamilton finished with 23 points for Connecticut, Khaled El-Amin had 15 points and tournament MVP Kevin Freeman nine, giving him 52 for the three games.

NO. 8 UTAH No. 25 New Mexico's Alex Jensen scored 18 points as Utah capped a perfect Western Athletic Conference season by winning the league tournament in Las Vegas. Utah (27-4) won its 22nd straight as it beat New Mexico for the third time this year.

RHODE ISLAND 62, **TEMPLE** 58 In Philadelphia, Lamar Odom hit a game-winning shot that gave Rhode Island (20-12) the victory over Temple in the Atlantic 10 championship game.

With 6.1 seconds left and the game tied 59-59, Odom got the ball near half-court and drove down the left sideline. He stopped about 22 feet from the basket and released the ball. It swished through as the horn sounded.

NEW MEXICO 79, **BOISE STATE** 69 In Reno, Nevada, New Mexico State beat Boise State to win the Big West championship and an automatic berth in the NCAA tournament.

TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO 71, **SW. TEXAS** 63 Steve Meyer scored 26 points as Texas-San Antonio (18-10) beat Southwest Texas State in the Southwest Conference championship game at Shreveport, Louisiana, to earn its second trip to the NCAA tournament.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Aussies Look Strong

CRICKET Glenn McGrath grabbed his 12th five-wicket haul in Tests as Australia continued the West Indies' misery before lunch on the third day of the opening Cable & Wireless cricket Test at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on Sunday.

The West Indies, resuming on 167 for nine, lost their final wicket to the last ball of the day's opening over from McGrath without adding a run. The visitors, with a first innings lead of 102, extended that to 145 by the interval, reaching 43 for one despite a break of 21 minutes because of light rain.

The 29-year-old McGrath finished with five for 50 off 14 overs as the West Indies collapse from Saturday evening was completed. Overall, the home team's last seven wickets fell for 18 runs after the captain, Brian Lara, was run out for the top score of 62. (AP)

SRI LANKA was off to a confident start after Pakistan set it for a challenging 385-run victory target on the fourth day of the Asian Championship Test match Sunday in Lahore.

The left-handed opening pair of Russel Arnold and Avishka Gunawardene rattled up 60 runs in 14 overs before bad light brought a premature end to the day's play. Arnold was batting on 15 while the hard-hitting Gunawardene hit six fours during his unbeaten innings of 36 before play was called off. Eighteen overs were yet to be bowled. (AP)

Dennis Viollet Dies at 65

SOCCER Dennis Viollet, the former Manchester United striker, has died following a long illness, the club announced Sunday.

Viollet, who was 65, survived the Munich air crash in 1958 which claimed the lives of so many of his teammates. He died in the United States on Saturday and had reportedly been suffering from a brain tumor.

EDMUNDO missed Fiorentina's Italian-league match Sunday, but club officials said it was because the striker was injured and had nothing to do with reports that he had been sentenced to four and a half years in jail by a Brazilian court.

A Rio de Janeiro court found Edmundo responsible for a traffic accident in December 1995 in which three people died. The court has indicated it will demand Edmundo's extradition from Italy to serve his sentence. (AP)

Phillips Wins Playoff

GOLF Van Phillips beat a fellow Briton, John Bickerton, at the first extra hole of a playoff Sunday to win the Portuguese Open in Penina.

Both players shot final-round, four-under-par 68s for aggregates of 12-under-par 276, three shots ahead of Robert Karlsson, Santiago Luna and Alex Cejka. (Reuters)

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MELBOURNE — Eddie Irvine opened the Grand Prix season Sunday with his first Formula One victory.

Of the 21 starters, only eight drivers finished the Australian Grand Prix at Albert Park. Irvine, in his 82nd race, beat Heinz-Harald Frentzen of the Jordan team by one second, with Ralf Schumacher of Williams coming in third.

Irvine said: "I was just pushing like hell. It's fantastic to win a race for Ferrari. The current car is the best I've ever driven."

But even though Ferrari won the race, its cars were clearly not the fastest on the track. Mika Hakkinen, the reigning champion, had led in the early laps only to drop out when his new McLaren developed problems. Irvine said: "Today, the tortoise beat the hare."

Hakkinen and his teammate, David Coulthard, started from the first two positions on the grid. Hakkinen then opened an 18-second lead over Irvine in

just 15 laps. Hakkinen looked uncatchable, but when Jacques Villeneuve lost the rear wing of his British American Racing car and hit a wall, bringing out the safety car, Irvine was able to close the gap as drivers slowed while the track was cleared.

When the race resumed, a throttle-linkage problem cut Hakkinen's speed, and Irvine blasted past the champion. By that time, Coulthard had dropped out with gearbox problems.

Last season, Irvine frequently sacrificed his chances of victory. He let Michael Schumacher, Ferrari's No. 1 driver, overtake him five times. Over the winter, the Irishman declined several offers to become a No. 1 driver elsewhere and chose to stay in what he calls the second-best job in Formula One, even though it limits his hopes of drivers' championship.

Schumacher was never in position Sunday to pass Irvine. Schumacher stalled on the last warm-up lap and was

sent to the back of the grid. He then shredded a tire and smashed his car's nose cone. He was also hampered by steering problems and limped home one lap behind Irvine as the last car to finish.

Schumacher said: "Naturally I'm not happy with my race today, but at least we both finished."

After passing Hakkinen, Irvine stayed in the lead — although Frentzen ran him close — and said the last few laps were like qualifying circuits.

Irvine said: "It was fairly straightforward, really. I was driving around wondering who I should thank and whether I should beat Zanardi to the doughnut. It was just plodding along to the finish."

Alex Zanardi, the former CART champion who celebrates victories by spinning his car and leaving a burnt rubber "doughnut" on the tarmac, failed to finish in the first race of his return to Formula One.

The race had an aborted first start

when the Stewart Ford cars of Rubens Barrichello and Johnny Herbert suffered electrical faults and were shrouded in smoke. Barrichello was given the reserve car, but Herbert was left without a ride.

After the race started, Damon Hill of Britain lasted only as far as the third corner, where he was nudged off the track by Jarno Trulli. It was a dismal way for the 1996 champion to mark his 100th Grand Prix.

Jean Alesi stalled his Sauber on the grid and was dragged off. The mishaps continued throughout the race as driver after driver was forced out.

Giancarlo Fisichella finished fourth in a Benetton, while Barrichello recovered well to finish fifth in the Stewart reserve car. Pedro de la Rosa came in sixth for Arrows; his teammate, Tora Takagi, was seventh, in a strong result by the team.

Barrichello was docked 10 seconds for passing Schumacher when the safety car was out, and the team said the penalty might have cost it victory. (AP, Reuters)

Irvine Survives Havoc to Capture Australian Prix



Patrick Nectoux/Agence France Presse
Eddie Irvine celebrating his victory Sunday in the season's first race.



David Beckham of Manchester United, left, battling Graeme Le Saux of Chelsea on Sunday.

Stalemate for Chelsea and Manchester

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MANCHESTER, England — The top two teams in the English Premier League met in an FA Cup quarterfinal Sunday, and drew, 0-0.

Chelsea, which is second in the league, played with only 10 men for more than half the match at Manchester United, the leader, but defended superbly to ensure that the two teams will play again at Chelsea's home stadium in West London on Wednesday.

Roberto Di Matteo, a Chelsea midfielder, was sent off just

seconds before the end of the first half after receiving a second yellow card for an illegal tackle on Paul Scholes. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, rested Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke who have scored 43 goals between them this season.

Although United dominated the second half, it could not score. Scholes, guilty of a number of glaring misses, was sent off himself in the 86th minute for a second yellow card.

Elsewhere Sunday, Alan Shearer sealed an FA Cup semi-

final berth for Newcastle when he kicked the Magpies' fourth goal in a 4-1 rout of Everton at St. James' Park.

Newcastle's Georgian striker, Temuri Ketsbaia, scored two goals and set up Shearer for the clincher.

In the draw for FA Cup semi-final places, Newcastle was picked to play the winner of the Tottenham-Barnsley quarterfinal — postponed because of snow — while the defending titlist, Arsenal, will face the winner of the United-Chelsea replay.

Lazio Holds Steady in Italy With Rout of Salernitana

Salas Scores Twice in 7 Minutes in 6-1 Comeback Victory

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MARZOLO Salas scored twice in seven minutes as Lazio overpowered Salernitana, 6-1, on Sunday in Rome to keep its four-point lead atop the Italian league.

Lazio fell behind on a goal by Salernitana's Ippolito Vanuccini in the 30th minute and could have fallen further behind had not one of its defenders, Paolo Negro, cleared a dangerous shot off the goal.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

Line, then, two minutes before halftime, Negro scored to tie the game. Salas, Christian Vieri and Alessandro Nesta all scored in the second half as Lazio took control of the game.

Salas raised his season total to 13 goals, tied for fourth in the league, while Vieri's goal was his seventh in the 10 games he has played since returning from a knee injury. Nesta, a defender, registered his first career goal. The victory was Lazio's 12th in its last 13 games.

Fiorentina took over second place from Parma by winning its match, 2-1, on goals by Luis Oliveira and Rui Costa. AC Milan was in third place after beating 10-man Piacenza, 1-0. Oliver Bierhoff scored the goal with a floating header.

Inter Milan continued to struggle without Ronaldo. The Brazilian, still battling tendinitis in his knees, attended a beatification ceremony at the Vatican while his teammates lost, 1-0, to Bari. Inter has lost three of its last four league outings.

NETHERLANDS Feyenoord's march towards the Dutch title continued unabated after it came back from a 3-1 deficit Sunday to win a 4-3 thriller over De Graafschap Doetinchem. Feyenoord (17-4-1) lengthened its lead over second-place Vitesse Arnhem to 11 points with a game in hand.

Tomasz Rzasa's centering pass helped Richard Roelofs score De Graafschap's first goal, and Erik Redeker headed in its second for a surprising 2-0 lead. Feyenoord's captain, Jean-Paul van Gastel, restored order with a 15th-minute penalty after Sonny Siljopy pulled down Bonaventure Kalou.

Rzasa made it 3-1 in the 51st minute, but van Gastel brought Feyenoord back again with a 25-

meter free kick. Then, in the last eight minutes, Feyenoord's substitutes did the trick. Igor Korneev leveled with a drive through a crowd, and Ellery Cairo chased a long ball to roll in the winner.

Ajax Amsterdam climbed to third in the Dutch league Sunday by beating visiting Utrecht, 5-1. Benni McCarthy, the South African striker, scored three times for Ajax.

SPAIN FC Barcelona stretched its league lead to four points Sunday with a convincing 4-1 victory over Salamanca, while Real Madrid's Raul clinched a first league victory for the team's new coach, John Toshack, with a last-minute goal to down Zaragoza, 4-1.

The Portuguese winger Luis Figo hit Barcelona's first in the eighth minute. Then, the Spanish international Luis Enrique Martinez got the second in the 43rd minute and the Dutch center-forward Patrick Kluivert made it 3-0 moments before the half-time whistle. The result left Barcelona with 47 points, four points ahead of No. 2 Valencia, which drubbed Athletic de Bilbao, 4-1.

GERMANY Bayern Munich beat Freiburg, 2-0, on Saturday to extend its string of shutouts to six and to stretch its lead in the Bundesliga to 14 points.

Bayern rested five starters from its Champions Cup match Wednesday against Kaiserslautern and played an uninspired game against a Freiburg team that is winless in five outings.

But Bayern is winning even with mediocre performances. It got help in the 30th minute Saturday when Jorg Schinkendorf, a Freiburg defender, accidentally headed the ball into his own net.

Kaiserslautern, which is in second place, gained a hard-fought 1-1 draw against Hertha in Berlin.

FRANCE Paris-St. Germain grabbed desperately at the rule book Saturday to keep its disastrous season afloat. PSG, struggling in the league and eliminated from both the Cup Winners Cup and the French Cup, lost, 2-0, at home to Montpellier in a quarterfinal of the League Cup, a minor competition. But the team appealed the result of Saturday's game. PSG officials argued that their club should be awarded victory because, following an error by a linesman, Montpellier had an extra player on the field for a few seconds. (AP, Reuters, AFP)

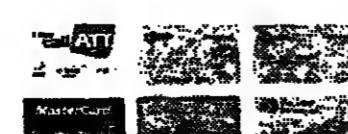
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